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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27TH, 2020

REVIEW: Youth Theatre tackles Guys and Dolls - see page 23



Chef sent to prison after stealing car and cash

A CHEF at a Porthcawl pub stole more than £800 from his employer before stealing a car, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

The Volkswagen vehicle had a tracker fitted and was traced to a hotel in the west Midlands where 24-year-old William Cooper had booked in.

Cooper, of Poplar Avenue, Porthcawl, said Mr Davies said that Cooper had been

to have "quite a track record for many types of pub, Porthcawl, where theft" was jailed for 22 weeks.

He admitted to charges of theft, taking a vehicle without authority and driving without insurance.

At one point during police investigations into the theft of the money, a totally innocent member of staff was interviewed, said prosecutor Andrew Davies.

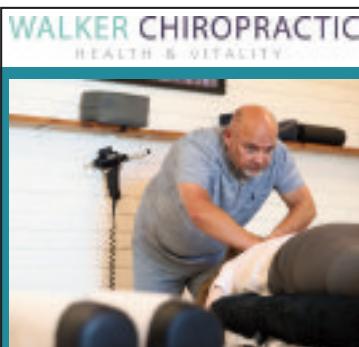
Cooper was said to have convictions for 43 offences, including assault, public order offences, causing criminal damage, shoplifting, several kinds of theft, making off without payment and using threatening words and behaviour.

Rockers are 'blown away' by UK charts victory



BRIDGEND rock band Those Damn Crows have stormed the UK charts following their newest album. The five-piece-band, which formed in 2014, said it is "playing with the big boys" following its success in the official UK charts.

Read the full story on Page Six



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Five Mile Lane 'disappointingly underused'

I am writing to express my disappointment at how underused the new Five Mile Lane appears to be.

There are still large numbers of heavy lorries and tankers thundering along Port Road contributing to pollution and congestion. It is a mystery to me as the new road is well sign posted and can reduce the driving time between Weycock and Culverhouse by about 10 minutes on average. I would have thought Vale of Glamorgan Council would have taken a more proactive role in encouraging all drivers to consider the environment when planning their journeys.

On the face of it we have spent £28m to make it easier for people living in Bonvilston and St Nicholas to get to the airport for their holidays!

Lloyd Jones, Barry.

Thanks to a Good Samaritan

I would like to say thank you to the man who helped me up and walked me home when I fell on Boerton Road, Llantwit Major the evening of Friday, February 14.

I was too dazed to say thank you properly or even to ask his name. His help was very much appreciated.

Jill Nicholson, Llantwit Major.

Losing sight of the real issue

IT'S a shame that last week's news coverage of the proposed closure of the Sam Davies Ward at Barry hospital was dominated by political in-fighting in Cardiff Bay.

Reports focussed on the minutiae of the Ministerial Code and whether Jane Hutt, a government Minister, should be allowed to oppose the policies of her own Government.

But surely the real issue is why, in the face of the NHS budget increases announced last December, this important service is still being cut in the first place?

Sian Jones, Penarth.

Nature needs you!

IT is a sad but true fact that we are losing local wildlife and their habitats at an alarming rate... we are in a nature and climate crisis.

At a time when we need politicians to show leadership to protect our environment, they instead do their utmost to avoid public scrutiny and environmental question time events.

Once upon a time political candidates would not dare avoid questioning from their potential voters but now, it seems, that giving their apologies is the safest option to getting elected!

You'd expect a country like the UK to care about its wildlife but you would be wrong!

The UK Biodiversity Intactness Index, which estimates the abundance of original species, is the 29th lowest out of 218 other countries. We are officially one of the most nature depleted countries in the world!

If we are to turn this sorry state of affairs around then we need to build an environmental and wildlife movement which they would not dare ignore.

We need people to join local, national and international environmental and wildlife conservation

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number and e-mail address. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

groups... only then will our decision makers listen and finally take the action needed to save our planet for future generations.

Rob Curtis, Barry Action for Nature.

Disgusting dog fouling on pitch

WE arrived at Barry Rugby Club on Sunday, February 23 as my eight year old boy was playing for the Barry Bombers under-9s.

There were numerous junior games taking place with several pitches being used. To our disgust, it took four of the parents to walk the pitches and clean up the dog mess – we filled four bags!

Most dogs walkers are responsible but to those who are not, hang your heads in shame. These pitches are used by kids as well as adults – dog poo can cause serious illness.

Have a bit of pride in Barry and a little bit of self respect and clean up after your dog.

It was disgusting and disgraceful at the pitch on Sunday.

Gareth Holmes, on behalf of Barry Bombers under 9s.

Change needed at Welsh Assembly

THOROUGHLY agree with most points made in Ade Pitman's letter in The Gem of February 20.

However, I would add that the Welsh Assembly also need change management training regarding the result of the recent General Election.

Unbelievable comments from the First minister: "Swathes of Labour votes in the valleys."

What a laughing stock he made of himself – embarrassing on the world stage.

After 20 years of Labour control, education has been totally devalued and now even removed from international tables. Combined with incorrect investment in infrastructure, transport and industry, Wales is not progressing and indeed is lagging well behind England.

Trivia is discussed and pushed through the Assembly, such as the ban on smacking of children. I have heard more intelligent debate at local government and parish council meetings!

It is paramount that a referendum is urgently requested regarding the need for this expensive layer of so-called politicians before it is too late.

Mrs Ros Morris, Cowbridge.

Bombs on the beach nothing new

FINDING a 'live' incendiary device on a Vale of Glamorgan beach is nothing new, for that matter; ordnance from the last two World Wars have been washed up on our shoreline before and will be for many years to come.

The question readers have been asking, I believe is: "Has the movement of the mud from the shores at Hinkley nuclear power station not only added water-borne poison to our shores, but once buried military perils which have now become a present menace?"

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP Birmingham.



Thursday February 27th, 2020

waterlogged ground and swollen rivers. It will take a long time for people to recover. The sums of compensation offered by the Government are too small and will be too little, too late. The people and their communities are leading the way, like the hundreds of volunteers clearing the storm debris. It is not good enough to say that this is the new normal and that we must learn to cope with Climate Change. Politicians will not make the necessary changes because they are only interested in getting elected. It is up to us to shift the balance of power to force political action at every level on Climate Change.

The Docks Incinerator has dropped its latest planning application for its water tanks/parking and now appears to be acting without planning permission. The incinerator is a development of national significance and should be dealt with by our Government, not the Vale Council.

We still await the Environmental Impact Assessment which was promised by the Environment Minister. No one seems to want to take responsibility for this hot potato, passing it back and forth and letting the developers go ahead, even if they are breaking the law. Barry and Vale FoE have seen the detailed proposals for Model Farm and are appalled at the proposal to cover the fields above Porthkerry Park with industries and roads. We will be opposing these proposals all the way. FoE's opposition to the dumping of Hinkley Nuclear Power Station's mud on our shores will now be taken up in a special committee set up by our Government. This will examine in detail the proposal for thousands more tons of radioactive waste to be transferred across the Channel. We wonder if the incendiary bomb discovered on Penarth beach last week could be a consequence of previous mud dredging activity at the Hinkley Nuclear Site?

The next meeting of Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth will be in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry, on Tuesday, March 3, at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

Keith Stockdale, Barry and Vale FoE Coordinator.

'Art is important'

As a child, I looked forward immensely to going to the library after school.

I hid my favourite books in the fiction section knowing that my friends didn't usually look there. We were only allowed two books at a time, which I usually read in two days. This wonderful place had lots to offer; there were maps and old issues of picture books of paintings. There were huge paintings on the walls and on the stairway, Dutch masters featuring people in the snow on ice rinks and people after a massacre. What an impact this had on me a young girl in the 50s and 60s. It is important for children of every age to experience seeing works of art, professional and unprofessional, in the local environment and this is my support for keeping Arts Central open for as long as we need it.

Diane Baker, Barry Arts Central.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

The high tides listed in this week's Gem are those in Portcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tides times will vary. For instance, in Barry the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

UNTIL MARCH 5

Date	Time	Height (metres)
27/02/2020	08.46	9.4
27/02/2020	20.54	9.3
28/02/2020	09.15	9.2
28/02/2020	21.23	9.1
29/02/2020	09.42	9.0
29/02/2020	21.53	8.8
01/03/2020	10.13	8.6
01/03/2020	22.29	8.3
02/03/2020	10.53	8.2
02/03/2020	23.13	7.9
03/03/2020	11.48	7.7
03/03/2020	00.19	7.5
04/03/2020	13.09	7.4
05/03/2020	01.53	7.3
05/03/2020	14.44	7.7

While the Gem makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

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E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk.

Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

Chef had 'quite a track record' for theft

STORY CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Mr Davies continued that Ms Beatty had been without her vehicle for several weeks and, as a ballet instructor, had lost more than £1,000 in earnings.

She also had to pay £250 on her insurance for the theft.

Ms Nicholls, who was responsible for the pub's safe, had been investigated for misconduct and had been fearful of losing her job.

As a result, she had suffered stress and

embarrassment.

James Evans, for the defendant, said he accepted what he had done from the outset.

The vehicle was not damaged and most of the money was recovered.

He said that on release from prison, he would find work and there is a good chance for his rehabilitation.

The judge pointed out that Ms Beatty had suffered great inconvenience and suspicion had fallen on her, despite her being totally innocent.

By AJ Sicluna



Bowie was reunited with owner Nadine, (below) after being missing for two years

Adoption centre reunited cat with owner after two years

A CAT which had been living as a stray for around two years has been reunited with his owner.

Bowie was returned

to his owner after a cat adoption centre in Bridgend scanned his chip and did some investigation work as the details were out of date.

The tabby and white moggy was straying in

the Broadlands area of Bridgend where an old lady took pity and cared for him for four months as she believed he had no home of his own.

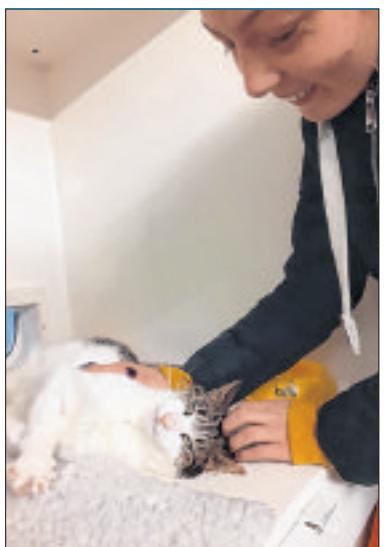
The tomcat was collected and taken to Cats Protection's Bridgend adoption centre in Bryncethin where he was discovered to have a microchip linked with Porthcawl.

The centre's staff searched through social media until they came across a Facebook post which led to Bowie's original owner, Nadine Stevenson.

Nadine revealed Bowie had been missing for two years and she had moved twice since he had disappeared.

However she also said that she had kept going back to Broadlands to try to find her beloved pet.

Nadine said: "I was really missing having a cat in the house and was actually planning to visit the centre soon to look into adoption. When I heard from the centre I



Prisoners to be screened after TB outbreak in jail



HMP Parc in Bridgend, which has been at the centre of a TB outbreak.

MORE than 1,000 inmates at HMP Parc in Bridgend are to be screened for TB after an outbreak of the disease was declared at the jail recently.

Six prisoners who were diagnosed with TB have responded well to treatment and pose no ongoing public health risk, health chiefs stressed this week.

Around 1,200 inmates and 650 prison staff are to be screened next month as Public Health Wales work with partner organisations to respond to the outbreak.

Dr Gwen Lowe, consultant in communicable disease control for Public Health Wales, said: "We continue to investigate and manage this situation."

Initial screening of 75 prison officers who we know had close prolonged contact with potentially infectious cases of TB found that at least 15 had evidence of exposure to the TB germ.

"All are well and preventative treatment is being

offered where required. In line with national guidance, screening is therefore being extended to a larger group of prison staff as a precaution. In addition, 1200 prisoners will also be screened.

"Depending on the results, further rounds of screening may be required in the near future.

"TB is an infection usually affecting the lungs, but any part of the body can be affected.

"Anyone can catch TB by breathing in the bacteria in tiny droplets sneezed or coughed out by someone who has TB in their lungs.

"But this usually requires prolonged and close contact.

"The infection can be treated with antibiotics, and a complete cure is possible in most instances."

Anyone who is concerned about their health should speak to their GP or contact NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

More information is available on the Public Health Wales website.

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Millions set aside for town's flood defence scheme

PLANS for a £6m flood defence scheme in Porthcawl will see major work undertaken on the Western Breakwater, Eastern Promenade and Sandy Bay areas of the town.

The project, led by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), was announced last March by the council, and is also known to locals as phase 4 of the overall plans for the development of the Salt Lake Car Park area.

Phase 4 is important because last year BCBC said that no housing could be considered of the Eastern Promenade area until the sea defences were strengthened.

Last March's announcement also said that a new, wider promenade would be created, running from Coney Beach to the harbour.

That announcement said that the work would cost £4 million, with BCBC paying 25% and the Welsh Government (WG) paying the rest.

However, the budget has risen, and BCBC is presenting its business

case to the WG, with the total cost now £6 million. BCBC will still pay 25 per cent.

A BCBC spokesman said: "As part of the planned flood defence work on the Eastern Promenade, the pedestrian path will be upgraded and the ground level raised to maintain views across the bay."

"New landscaped areas are being introduced as part of the upgrade and the cycle path is being retained."

Referring to the increase in budget he said: "During the detailed design stage, structural investigations identified the need for more works to be undertaken to provide the necessary protection."

"These investigations relied on ground penetrating radar surveys and trial hole excavations to accurately assess the works required, which would not have been wholly evident during the initial surveys required for the outline business case submitted to Welsh Government.

"The project costs now also include supervisory costs and a risk allowance, required in such schemes to cover unknown matters and taking into account the

coastal environment."

BCBC is keen to emphasise the need for the flood defences to be improved, irrespective of future development, saying it will help protect more than 500 homes and over 170 businesses in the town.

A spokesperson said:

"A recent study shows the Eastern Promenade sea wall and Western Breakwater structures are deteriorating and becoming more susceptible to overtopping."

"Flood defences at Sandy Bay, Western Breakwater and Rhych Point are all earmarked for an upgrade as part of the work."

BCBC's cabinet member for education and regeneration, Cllr Charles Smith said:

"The scheme seeks to maintain sea defences and to protect properties within Porthcawl to meet the long term needs of residents, with allowance for sea level rise to year 2118, in accordance with current guidance."

"The structures protect several million pounds worth of assets and infrastructure along the Western Breakwater and Eastern Promenade including the walkways, both the commercial businesses and the properties within the Jennings building, and properties that would otherwise be impacted by flooding events from the Porthcawl seafront."

"The defences also protect other commercial properties and utilities like gas, water and sewers along the seafront which provide important benefits to both employment and the economy of Porthcawl."

"Continuing to protect this area will give assurance to stakeholders to continue to live, work, visit and invest in the inner harbour."

The Western Breakwater was first built in the 1820s and extended in the 1860s - it is often seen in photos when large waves crash over.

BCBC has submitted a full business case to Welsh Government for the work and is currently awaiting final approval of the scheme.

A public consultation in Porthcawl took place on the plans in February 2019.

A Bridgend County Borough spokesman said:

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The Western Breakwater is earmarked for an upgrade as part of a £6m flood defences scheme in Porthcawl. (Photo by Chris Jones Photography)

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Scammers becoming increasingly clever, MP warns

SCAMMERS are getting increasingly clever at cheating vulnerable people out of their money, warns Chris Elmore.

The Ogmore MP says tackling 'economic crime' needs to be a higher priority for the police.

He said in the Commons that both he and chief constables in Wales and England have been raising economic crime and scamming as issues for a number of years, with constant pressure coming from new scams.

Mr Elmore asked Police Minister Kit Malthouse to talk to chief constables about setting economic crime as a priority so that vulnerable people

are not attacked by scammers who are becoming increasingly clever at taking their money.

Mr Malthouse said Mr Elmore had raised an important point, with the technical complexity of crime changing significantly over recent years. "One question we have to ask ourselves, both in the Home Office and in the UK policing family, is whether we have the skills and capability to deal with some of those issues."

"It is partly about investing in some of those capabilities, not least in tackling online economic crime, which we are sadly seeing become increasingly prevalent as the internet penetrates even more of our lives."

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Blue plaques will mark the spot in Bridgend



ABOVE: Professor Deryn Watson with the Mayor.

LEFT: Lady Dunraven with Cllr Alan Wathan.



MP calls for more infrastructure funding from UK government

OGMORE MP Chris Elmore has called on the UK Government to increase infrastructure funding to Wales following the confirmation that HS2 is getting the go-ahead.

It was announced last week that the delayed project would go ahead despite fears that the project will be significantly over budget. During Treasury Questions last week, Chris tackled ministers on the lack of infrastructure funding in Wales, given the significant investment now set to be allocated to England. Wales has 11 per cent of the total rail lines across England and Wales and 20 per cent of the level crossings. Despite this, only two per cent of the funding for key improvements has been sent across the Welsh border.

Chris Elmore MP said: "With all this talk of better rail services in the north of England and bridges to Northern Ireland, it's about time some of

the Treasury's spending splurge crossed the border into Wales. Greater spending on infrastructure is urgently needed in all parts of our United Kingdom but it's high time UK Government ministers sent some of this investment our way."

Chris, who chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Rail in Wales, has been campaigning to secure the closure of the level crossing in Pencoed due to it being one of the most dangerous level crossings in Wales and a cause of significant traffic congestion in and around the Pencoed area.

"From the cancellation of rail electrification to Swansea, to the rail safety upgrades like the closure of Pencoed level crossing that haven't yet gone ahead, UK Ministers are utterly failing to deliver for Wales. This is an issue I've campaigned on since I was first elected – and I'll be sure to hold ministers' feet to the fire on this until we get the investment our communities need and deserve."

TWO memorial blue plaques were unveiled in Bridgend recently.

The town's Civic Trust and Historical Society joined the mayor of Bridgend Town Council, Cllr Alan Wathan, and invited guests to reveal the plaques.

The council has introduced the Blue Plaque Scheme to recognise significant contributions made to the area and commemorate notable people, places and events within the wards of Morfa, Oldcastle and Newcastle.

The first blue plaque was unveiled by Lady Dunraven, the last Countess Dunraven, at the Randall Memorial Drinking Fountain, celebrating the contribution made to Bridgend by the Dowager Countess of Dunraven, Caroline Wyndham.

In 1857, Caroline Wyndham paid for a pipeline to be laid from Sarn to a water trough with a tap on the corner of Court Road/Derwyn Road. The water was clean, free and available for everyone.

In response, Eastgate Street was re-named Caroline Street in her honour.

In 1860, she paid for the Randall Memorial Drinking Fountain to be erected in memory of John Randall, who managed her estates for 33 years. Again, the water was free and available for all. The memorial is now grade II listed.

The second blue plaque was unveiled by Professor Deryn Watson, in honour of her father, Sir Morien Bedford Morgan, originally from Caroline Street, who is often referred to as 'Morgan the Supersonic', or the Welsh Father of Concorde.

Historians of one of the world's best-known aircraft have acknowledged that without the dogged persistence of Sir Morien Morgan, it might never have got off the ground.

He was one of a group of brilliant young aeronautical engineers working at the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE) in Farnborough, Hampshire, from 1935 where he specialised in aircraft control and stability.

In 1956, as chairman of the Supersonic Transport Aircraft Committee (STAC), he was in on the plan to build Britain's first supersonic passenger aircraft from the start.

Knighted in 1969, Sir Morien became master of Downing College, Cambridge in 1972 but did not completely sever his links with the aeronautical industry. He died in 1978.

His plaque has been placed above the entrance to the Rhiw Shopping Centre.

Bridgend Town Council would like to thank Creative Assets Global Ltd and HD Ltd for their co-operation.

LEFT:
Sir
Morien
Morgan's
blue
plaque.




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Spring fair in Penarth

The Penarth fundraising group for Cancer Research UK is having a Spring fair on Saturday, February 29, in the Conservative Club in Penarth, 2pm to 3.45pm. There will be cakes, preserves, crafts, cards and other stalls.

Cowbridge and District Flower Arrangers

On March 4 the meeting will feature Wendy Davies from Carmarthenshire, who will be our demonstrator for the evening. Her subject will be 'Let's get Fresh' at the Lesser Hall at 7.30pm. New Members are always welcome.

Breakfast get-together

KPC in Pyle are organising their quarterly breakfast get-together for local groups, organisations and businesses supporting communities in



Turning at McDonalds,
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 the red railings

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This project is a chance to find out about what we all do locally for our community – events, services we offer, and for us all to gain a greater understanding of what great work is being done. If you're a local organisation/group or business delivering services to our local community from children to adults, please get in touch. Come along for a bacon roll and a cuppa from 8.30am at KPC in Pyle on Thursday, March 5; contact Alison for more information on 01636 749219 or email: info@kpcyouth.com.

PACT meetings

Meet your local officer at Atlantic College (next to the food hall) on Thursday, February 27 between 5.30pm and 6.30pm.

Llangeinor PACT meeting at Llangeinor Football Club, Llangeinor on Wednesday, March 11 at 7pm.

Carpet-gate is most 'extreme' battle in pub's history, says boss

By Sam Hall

Reporter
sam.hall@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

TALKS aimed at laying Barry's long-running and controversial 'carpet-gate' saga to rest have taken place recently.

Wetherspoon boss Tim Martin, who found himself embroiled in a bizarre spat with town councillors over a carpet in one of his pubs, travelled to Barry in an attempt to come up with a resolution.

A row broke out after Mr Martin's company laid a carpet, featuring Barry's coat of arms crest, in the town's Sir Samuel Romilly watering-hole as part of a £700,000 spruce-up scheme.

Unimpressed town councillors demanded the carpet be removed as they felt it was "disrespectful" to put furniture on top of the crest.

They were also miffed that the carpet had been installed before Wetherspoon had asked the council for permission to use the Coat of Arms.

After Mr Martin refused to remove the rug, town councillors sought legal advice with one option being to take the company to the Court of Chivalry, which last sat in 1737.

And now discussions to find an amicable resolution to the 'ridiculous' rug row have taken place between Mr Martin and disgruntled dignitaries.

Mr Martin told the Glamorgan GEM that he'd hoped the meeting, held behind closed doors at Barry Town Council's offices, had been constructive.

The businessman revealed that he'd offered to remove the carpet once it has worn out in a few years' time.

Mr Martin explained: "I just think it has gotten out of hand. It doesn't make any sense to the public.

"We had the best of intentions. We spent nearly £1m buying the building next door to the pub and improving facilities.

"We always try to incorporate local history into the design of our pubs."

Mr Martin added: "It is a shame to have a pub, which people like, getting involved in this sort of controversy.

"We made an offer to take the carpet out once it has worn out, which will probably be in three or so years.

"I would like to find an amicable resolution because

this is ridiculous."

Talking about his recent meeting with councillors, Mr Martin said: "I did get a courteous reception.

"The councillors were polite. Hopefully it was constructive."

And he reckoned that it would be a "waste of time and money" if the town council took his business to the Court of Chivalry, a court set up in the 14th century to settle disputes involving coats of arms.

Minutes of the private meeting said that Mr Martin "noted that there had not been a situation this extreme in JD Wetherspoon's history and felt that it was important to reach a resolution."

The official document added: "Mr Martin noted that he felt it was not necessary to get into an argument over a small area of carpet."

He further noted that he felt the public's perception was that the council was being too extreme in requesting a specially designed carpet be removed."

Councillors resolved to wait for Mr Martin to come up with a string of possible resolutions, which are set to be discussed later this month.

A spokesman for Barry Town Council said: "The council has asked Wetherspoon to remove the carpet bearing the Coat of Arms.

"That is because the Arms have been granted to the council by the Crown, and whilst the council's practice is to authorise use of the Arms by local community groups and bodies which it wishes to endorse and support, it is inappropriate for organisations, and in particular commercial organisations, to adopt the Arms without obtaining the council's consent."

The spokesman added: "The council, however, remains hopeful that a resolution acceptable to both parties can be agreed, which will avoid the undesirable costs of court proceedings, and which respects both the council's need to control the use of its Arms, and Wetherspoon's desire to be associated with and serve the community."

"That was why Mr Martin was invited to attend the council meeting in January, and the council is due to explore this possibility further with Wetherspoon at the end of this month.

"In the light of those ongoing discussions it is inappropriate for the Council to comment further on the detail of the dispute at this stage".



ABOVE: The offending carpet, which has caused Wetherspoon boss Tim Martin and Barry town councillors to clash.



ABOVE: The Sir Samuel Romilly watering-hole in Barry. (Photographs credited to South Wales News Service)

Bridgend rock band hits success in the UK charts

By Ariane Hill

Reporter
ariane@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

A BRIDGEND rock band have joined music giants such as Green Day, Lewis Capaldi and Ed Sheeran in the UK charts with their newest album.

Those Damn Crows held the number six spot in the Official Midweek Albums Chart for three days before finishing at number 14 in the UK's Official Albums Chart on Thursday, February 20 with new album Point of No Return which came out on February 7.

The five-piece-band consists of frontman Shane Greenhall from Bridgend, guitarists Ian 'Shiner' Thomas from Ogmore Vale and David Winchurch from Bridgend, bassist Lloyd Wood from Bridgend and drummer Ronnie Huxford from Pontycymmer.

Shane, 38, said: "It's incredible to be honest, we're just five boys from Bridgend and we're up there with the big boys like Green Day and I think Eminem is up there too."

"To be at number six and to stay there for three days is incredible. We're absolutely over the moon, it was a tough week to release a record as well."

Shane said he had been in bands with 38-year-old Ronnie and 40-year-old Shiner before. Those Damn Crows formed in 2014 with the addition of 38-year-old Dave, and 29-year-old Lloyd joined a bit later.

Those Damn Crows, who are signed to independent Nottingham based company Earache, said they "hoped" to be a professional band.

Shane said: "We're not youngsters anymore. I was first in bands with Ronnie and Shiner, and we've always done different things but it has always been the dream to play professionally."

"When I got back together with the boys and we recorded some demos, I thought 'hold on, this is really good. This could happen'. We always hoped it would."

Those Damn Crows, who are regularly played on Planet

Rock radio which has continuously supported them as well as BBC Radio Wales, also stormed the Official Rock and Metal Albums Chart as they held the number two position for a week from Friday, February 14, behind Green Day's new album Father of All. This week, which began on February 21, the band held onto the number four spot in the rock charts – the current week is set to end today, February 27.

To add to Those Damn Crows' chart victory, the band were also crowned number one in the Official Independent Albums Chart for one week from February 14.

South Wales is known for its thriving music scene, and popular alternative venues like Hobos in Bridgend and Fuel in Cardiff. When asked about his advice to aspiring bands or musicians in the scene, Shane said:

"Just play anywhere and forget about money."

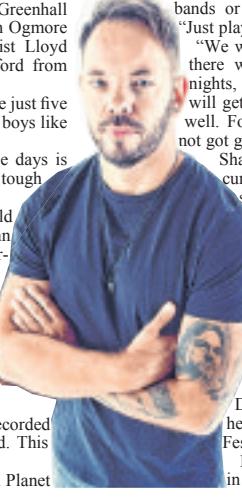
"We were lucky when we were kids because there were more open mic nights and jam nights, but just play anywhere – that way you will get to meet other musicians and bands as well. Forget about the money because you're not going to make any at the start."

Shane said Those Damn Crows, which are currently touring the UK, first had their success in England before they became popular in Wales.

He added that the band is inspired by the 1990s grunge era with bands like Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Green Day – which Shane and the other members grew up with – as well as classic rock bands such as AC/DC, Led Zeppelin and Aerosmith.

Those Damn Crows, who last year played Download Festival at Donnington Park in Derbyshire, will be headlining Planet Rock radio's Winter's Festival in Dorset this April.

Point of No Return is available to buy in shops and online as well as to stream.



Those Damn Crows with frontman Shane Greenhall pictured left

Meet your Member of Parliament

MORE than one hundred people packed into the old schoolroom in Newton last Saturday to attend a meeting I called for residents concerned about plans to build new houses in the village.

I organised the meeting in response to the many issues raised with me about the proposals which could see 74 new houses built on the site of the former St John's school.

A pre-application consultation is now underway before developers lodge an application for formal planning consent. A brief outlining the proposals was prepared by developers who have invited residents to comment. I wanted to ask people in the community what their views were so that I could frame my response accordingly.

I asked those members of the public who attended whether they were totally opposed to the plan or whether it was certain aspects of it that they opposed and which could perhaps be changed. But there was overwhelming opposition in principle to the plan.

A number of objections were listed by residents and include the fact that this land is designated at the moment as playing fields, that the area is of ecological importance as wildlife habitat and that some trees may also have to be felled to make way for the new homes.

But the overriding objection concerns the

impact on local traffic. Time and again residents spoke about how the roads around St Clare's School are impassable when children are being dropped off in the mornings and picked up in the afternoons.

Residents also argue that having the main access into this estate from Birch Walk would be catastrophic because of the increase in traffic not just in Birch Walk itself but also in Danygraig Avenue where all traffic would eventually end up.

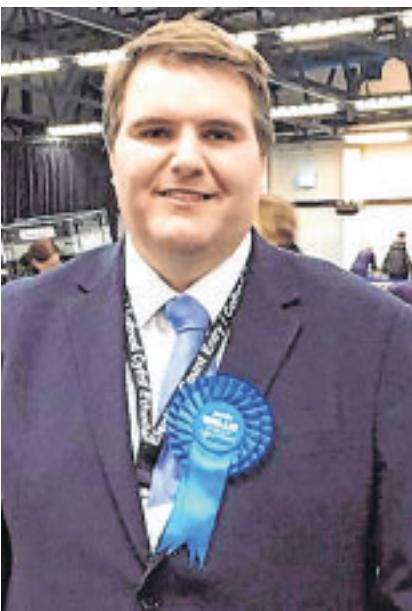
The extra traffic is estimated at up to 160 more cars on local roads plus all the attendant delivery vehicles, taxis and service vehicles which will be accessing this new estate.

I have been told that the traffic impact assessment was carried out for the developers on a Sunday. If true, then this is grossly insulting to the local community and must be scrapped and a new one ordered by planners to show what things are like at 8.50am on a Monday morning during term time. That will be the true picture.

There is also the issue of the historical importance of Newton and whether or not this development is in keeping with it. Planners must bear that in mind when making their decision when the time comes.

I would urge everyone with views on this matter to make a submission during the consultation and let me know their views as well. I can be contacted at jamie.wallis.mp@parliament.uk

MP Jamie Wallis talks about plans to build homes on a former school site in his monthly column



Porthcawl RNLI to hold year long festival



TO mark 55 years since the RNLI established an inshore lifeboat station at Porthcawl, the fundraising and events team will be holding a series of events throughout the year.

Plans include two special weekends of events to take place at the start and end of summer.

David Shillaw, of Porthcawl RNLI fundraising and events team, said: "We felt it was important

to recognise the anniversary, and last year our fundraising team had their most successful year ever raising £73,000; we hope to continue with the same momentum."

"With launch figures yet to be released by the RNLI for 2019, it is likely Porthcawl will once again be one of, if not the busiest lifeboat station in Wales."

"Our first weekend event will be on June 13 with a supper evening at the Hi Tide Inn. This will be followed by a festival

style event on the Promenade on June 14 to replace our annual RescueFest, which we have had to cancel for this year."

Porthcawl RNLI fundraising and events team is renewing its appeal for active members.

If you can spare a couple of hours to help with street and store collections or want to organise small fundraising events yourself, pick up an application form from the Porthcawl RNLI lifeboat gift shop.

Forum promotes the Welsh language

BRIDGEND Welsh Ogi Ogwr Festival and Shwmae Su'mae Day.

Keep an eye on the networks to hear more about these events. If you would like to have an input into these arrangements or have any other ideas, contact Amanda Jaine Evans, Menter Bro Ogwr's chief language officer by email: Menter@broogwr.org or telephone: 01656 732200.

Fforwm Iaith Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr/ Bridgend Welsh Language Forum.

Fforwm Iaith Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

SEFYDLWYD Fforwm Iaith Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn 2000 trwy wahodd parti-neriaid Cymraeg y Sir at ei gilydd.

Mae 18 o gymdeithasau a sefydliadau'n cael eu cynrychioli ar y Fforwm Iaith. Mae'r Fforwm yn cael ei arwain dar da o'r Ffurfiad Meithrin, Ysgol Gynradd Calon Y Cymoedd, Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sgêr, Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Bridgend County College, Learn Welsh Glamorgan, CYD Porthcawl, Yr Hogwr.

The last meeting was held in January where new partners were invited. BAVO, South Wales Police and Merched y Wawr were all represented.

The Fforwm Iaith is central to sharing information and working in partnership on activities, projects and opportunities by forum membership groups. By working together, the groups will avoid duplication and plan together to achieve goals, sharing good practice and supporting each other's work, of strengthening the Welsh language in Bridgend county.

Planning has started for activities this year which will include Welsh Language Music Day, Race for the Language, Ogi Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Coleg Pen-y-bont, Dysgu Cymraeg Morgannwg, CYD Porthcawl, Yr

WORLD Rotary Health Organisation, Day (23 February) is being marked in south Wales by Rotarians from the area celebrating the milestone \$1 million they have raised towards the major goal of eradicating polio worldwide.

The Rotary Club of Bridgend celebrated World Polio Day by illuminating St David's Church, Laleston, with purple light – the colour supporting the polio vaccination campaign, as those who are vaccinated have to dip their little finger in purple dye.

World Polio Day was initiated by the Rotary Foundation nearly a decade ago with an aim of the complete eradication of the virus from all the parts of the world.

Rotary is a partner in the global polio eradication program with organisations like World

AR

Rotarians help to eradicate polio

Health Organisation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative was launched by Rotary International and the World Health Organisation in 1988, when there were nearly 35,000 cases in 125 countries. Though many of the countries were declared polio-free in 2013, it still affects some of the most marginalised sections and poorest people in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria.

The objects of Rotary are the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of persons united in the ideal of service. If you would like to know more about Rotary and/or would like to join

contact www.rotary-ribi.org or the secretary on 01656 660648.

Hogwr.

Cynhalwyd ein cyfarfod diwethaf ar o Ionawr lle estynwyd gwahoddiad at bartneriaid newydd. Roeddem yn falch iawn i dderbyn cynrychiolaeth gan BAVO, Heddau De Cymru a Merched y Wawr.

Mae'r Fforwm Iaith yn fan canolog i gyd-gynllunio ar lefel strategol a rhannu gwybodaeth a gweithio mewn partneriaeth ar weithgareddau, prosiectau a chyfleoedd gan grwpiau aelodau eth y fforwm. Wrth gydweithio, byddwn yn osgoi dyblig ym mae'r fforwm i ddarparu arweiniad y nod, gan rannu arfer da a chefnogi gwaith ein gilydd er mwyn atgyfnerthu'r Gymraeg o fewn cymunedau Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Rydym wedi dechrau cynllunio ar gyfer ein gweithgareddau elemi a fydd yn cynnwys: Datlhyd Dydd Miwsig Cymru, Cynnal Ras Yr Iaith, Cynnal Gŵyl Ogi Ogi Ogwr a Dathlu Diwrnod Shwmae Su'mae.

Cadwch olwg ar ein rhwydweithiau er mwyn clywed mwy am y digwyddiadau yma. Os hoffech chi gael mewnbwn i'r trefnidiadau yma neu os oes gyda chi unrhyw syniadau eraill, cysylltwch ag Amanda Jaine Evans, Prif Swyddog Iaith Menter Bro Ogwr trwy e-bost: menter@broogwr.org neu ffôn: 01656 732200.

Trio of buildings fetch a pretty penny at auction

THREE redundant buildings in the Bridgend County Borough area have been sold off at auction, raising nearly £740,000 for the local authority.

An old block of public toilets in Bridgend town centre, a former care home in Maesteg and a four-storey building in Porthcawl, which used to be council offices, fetched a total of £736,000 recently.

The toilets in Derwen Road went for £61,000 – more than twice the guide price – with the former 30-bed Hyfrydol care home being bought for £410,000 and the old town council base in Victoria Avenue being sold for £265,000.

The money generated from the sales will be spent on Bridgend County Borough's capital programme which includes the 21st Century schools modernisation.

Hywel Williams, the council's deputy leader, said: "The total capital receipt far surpassed our expectations with the reserve value being £453k.

"It is excellent news as it means we generate much-needed capital and reduce our ongoing liabilities.

"The receipts will help fund our capital programme which includes the 21st Century schools modernisation programme with Band B schools estimated to cost around £68m."

He added: "New toilets will be opening soon in the indoor market in a partnership between Bridgend Town Council and the market traders association, and there are also still toilets in the Bridgend Bus Station.

"This is all part of our long-term asset management plan where over the past few years we have been remodelling services and selling those assets which are surplus to requirements."

Visit our website for all the latest news and sport



BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004 BRIDGEND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

NOTICE OF DEPOSIT OF PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE ASSOCIATED WITH A LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Bridgend County Borough Council has resolved to publish the following draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents to the Bridgend Local Development Plan for public consultation:

Outdoor Recreation Facilities and New Housing Development SPG; and Educational Facilities and Residential Development SPG

The above draft documents are available to view on the Council's website at: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-control/supplementary-planning-guidance-consultation/> and are available for inspection at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB during normal working hours (Monday to Thursday: 8.30am - 5.00pm, Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm).

The consultation period will run from Friday 21 February 2020 until Friday 3 April 2020. Any comments should be received at the County Borough Council Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, before 5pm on Friday 3 April 2020.

Comments should be made by email, to developmentplanning@bridgend.gov.uk or in writing to Development Planning, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

DEDFD CYNLLUNIO A PHRNU GORFODOL 2004 CYNLLUN DATBLYGU LLEOL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

RHYBUDD O OSOD CANLLAWIAU CYNLLUNIO ATODOL ARFAETHEDIG YN GYSLLTIEDIG Â CHYNNILLUN DATBLYGU LLEOL

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr wedi penderfynu cyhoeddi'r dogfennau Canllawiau Cynllunio Atodol draft cynllunio i Gyllun Datblygu Lleol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr ar gyfer ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus:

Canllawiau Cynllunio Atodol Cyfleusterau Hamdden Awyr Agored a Datblygiadau Tai Newydd; a Chanllawiau Cynllunio Atodol Cyfleusterau Arfaethedig yn Gysylltiedig â Chyndillun Datblygu Lleol

Mae'r dogfennau uchod ar gael i chi eu gweld ar wefan y Cyngor yn <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/cv/preswylwvr/cynllunio-a-heoli-adeliadu/vmgynghoriad-ar-y-canllawiau-cynllunio-atodol/> ac maent ar gael i'w harchwilio yn y Swyddfeidd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr CF31 4WB yn ystod oriau gwath aferol (Dydd Llun i Ddydd Iau 8.30am - 5.00pm, Dydd Gwener 8.30am - 4.30pm).

Bydd y cyfnod ymgynghori yn para o Dydd Gwener 21 Chwefror 2020 tan Dydd Gwener 3 Ebrill 2020. Dyliid cyflwyno unrhyw sylwadau i Swyddfeidd y Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, **cyn 5pm ar Dydd Gwener 3 Ebrill 2020**.

Dyliid anfon sylwadau drwy e-bost i developmentplanning@bridgend.gov.uk neu yn ysgrifenedig i'r Tim Cynllunio Datblygiadau, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Y Swyddfeidd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, CF31 4WB.

Jonathan Parsons
Group Manager Planning and Development Services
Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices, Angel Street,
Bridgend,
CF31 4WB

Jonathan Parsons
Gwasanaethau Cynllunio a Datblygu Rheolwr Grwp,
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr,
Swyddfeidd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel,
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
CF31 4WB



ABOVE: The former care home in Maesteg.



The former toilet block in Bridgend town centre, pictured above, and the former council offices in Porthcawl, pictured right.



(All photos credited to Paul Fosh Auctions)

Charity plans a busy Fairtrade Fortnight

THE UK Fairtrade Fortnight runs until March 6 and the Porthcawl-based charity, Sustainable Wales is aiming to mark the occasion with food, fashion, stories and stalls.

Its community cooperative, SUSSED, will offer students, parents and shoppers free samples of Fairtrade chocolate, tea, coffee and sugar at stalls in schools and in Porthcawl.

A small new range of dresses/skirts made from recycled saris will also be available for the ethical, eco-chic fashionistas amongst us. Alongside these will be displayed a wide range of fairly traded gifts.

On Saturday, March 7, the charity will hold a Fairtrade St David Day's Pop Up Café, 11am to 4pm, at 5 James Street, Porthcawl CF36 3BG.

Diners will be able to select from a menu chosen to celebrate Wales, while showing support for people in developing countries.

Throughout Fairtrade Fortnight shoppers will discover at SUSSED, Porthcawl's fairtrade shop, several 'storybombs' (in English and Welsh).

These storybombs will tell some extraordinary stories from female producers and help understand their need for a living

income. The storybomb can then be placed somewhere else for others to uncover and so on. (Read Me, Share Me, Hide Me Again.)

Co-ordinator Margaret Minhinnick says: "Shoppers increasingly question where their products come from, how they were made, and how the people involved were treated and paid.

The public do not want exploitation to be part of the price of their goods.

"For example, the UK chocolate industry is worth at least £4 billion each year, but Fairtrade cocoa represents a mere fraction of this."

"The average cocoa farmer in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, where 60 percent of all cocoa is grown, makes less than 75p a day. This is well below the extreme poverty line of around £1.40 and is less than the price of a latte, which can't be right. It just isn't fair."

She added: "The Fairtrade premium and the Fairtrade minimum price are driving real change, right now. Fairtrade farmers and workers have a safety net that protects them from low prices for their crops."

For more information, telephone 01656 783962 or 01656 773627, or email mm@sustainablewales.org.uk

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Market to host a Saint David's Day Celebration

ALL of us who were born or grew up going to school in Wales will, no doubt, have fond memories of March 1 and the annual Saint David's Day celebrations: going to school in national costume or Welsh rugby and football tops, parents and grandparents coming along to be treated to a morning's mini eisteddfod with Welsh songs, hymns and poems.

But for some reason, unlike the Irish whose St Patrick's Day celebration is world renowned and the Scots, who celebrate not only St Andrew's Day but Hogmanay and Burns' Night as well, our celebrations for St David's Day, Dydd Gwyl Dewi, seem to peter out after we leave school.

But why is that – and should our councils do more to help celebrate our Welsh history and culture, and at the same time provide a welcome boost in trade to our hard-hit local shops and businesses? That's the view of Christine Moore, chair of Yes Cymru Penybont ar Ogwr, who said: "I recently found a rather lovely Borough Guide to Bridgend from 1910, a reminder that Bridgend not only has an ancient past, but also had a vibrant Welsh culture and back then saw the advantages of this in

marketing the town. Fast forward to today and our town has lost most of its Welsh heart, devoid of a 'sense of place'; and what few iconic buildings we have left lie empty and in a sorry state: The York, The Dunraven Hotel and the oldest Nonconformist chapel with links to Richard Price, to name but a few.

Bridgend Council and the agencies that govern the area are doing little to address the matter and totally ignore the benefits that celebrating our Welshness can bring."

This year though, thanks to a joint venture between Yes Cymru and Bridgend Indoor Market all that is about to change. On February 29, Bridgend Market will play host to a St David's Day celebration arranged by Yes Cymru. This free event will take place in the indoor market between 10am and 3pm and will include performances by local musicians, bands and Welsh dance groups as well as children's colouring activities and a chance for adults to test their knowledge of Welsh history in a quiz.

Christine said: "We hope this is the start of an annual St David's Day celebration in Bridgend, and we would be delighted if people could pop along even for a short while, support our hard working local traders and spend a little time reliving childhood memories of Dydd Gwyl Dewi – St. David's Day."

Free advice on reducing carbon footprints

A PORTHCAWL-BASED charity, Sustainable Wales, has been contracted by Renew Wales to offer free support to reduce the carbon footprint of community groups and local businesses.

The idea is to help people respond to the climate change emergency.

A Sustainable Wales spokesperson said: "Are your activities and projects environmentally and people friendly? Do you need help to develop new ideas and ways of working or understand the Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations Act?"

"Further support is offered from a mentor – specific advisor/expert (equivalent to 2 days-worth of time) to help with more detail."

Ogmore MP supports the Purple Vote Campaign

CHRIS Elmore MP has added his support to the Purple Vote campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the needs of disabled people and to encourage people living with disabilities to vote and to stand as candidates in elections.

Analysis across Europe has shown that people with disabilities feel less confident in their ability to participate in and influence politics and have a lower propensity to vote, despite being more likely to be registered on the UK's electoral register.

Among respondents surveyed during the 2017 General Election, 10

per cent said they had a disability, compared with 18 per cent of the population. Five of the MPs who were elected reported having some form of disability.

Chris Elmore MP said: "It's vital that our politicians better reflect all of the communities we represent. This isn't a tick-box exercise, it's about ensuring that everyone's interests and needs are heard. To make this happen, it's essential that we open up our democracy to ensure everyone has access to our political system and feels able to participate in it."

"That means opening up all levels of government. That's why I'm proud to be supporting the great work the Purple Vote campaign are doing."

Youngsters recognised for staying safe online



Children from Oldcastle Primary School at the Safer Internet Day final.

OLDCASTLE Primary School was delighted to be shortlisted and invited to attend the Welsh Government Safer Internet Day competition on February 11.

Children from various year groups produced videos to highlight the importance of staying safe online. Children in reception produced a video based on the TV programme 'Question Time' and invited members of the audience (their class mates) to answer questions on how to stay safe online. Their message was simple and effective and involved 'telling a grown up' when online.

The children were delighted to experience the awards ceremony and see the reception children's video on the big screen.

The ceremony was attended by Kirsty Williams AM who congratulated all the school children who got through to the final.

Sara Peters, safety officer at Oldcastle Primary School said: "We were thrilled to reach the final of the Safer Internet Day competition and children were excited to be part of the event."

"We believe it is extremely important to educate children in the importance of online safety, and we felt that this competition was a great way to involve the whole school."

"Technology plays an important role in our school life and we feel it is important for pupils to understand how to look after themselves online and also understand what to do if something goes wrong."

Could you offer a home to Wales'



Conker loves to spend time with his Canine Carers

DOGS Trust Bridgend are making a special appeal for their longest serving canine resident, Conker, who has been waiting for a home for over 250 days.

The two-year-old Lurcher originally found himself in the care of Dogs Trust Bridgend in November 2018. Since then he has been adopted twice, but sadly it was not meant to be and he has now been waiting since July 2019. Kim Davies of Dogs Trust Bridgend says: "Conker is a fantastic lad who can be shy when it comes to meeting new people, so we think this might be what puts

people off adopting him. But with patience and time, Conker's true personality will shine through and he loves to play and spend time with his human friends."

"He could live with a family with children aged 14 or above and would also prefer to live with another dog who can show him the ropes. With his stunning looks, Conker has become quite the model at the rehoming centre and will happily pose for photos; but so far he hasn't had much luck in finding the right home."

If you could offer Conker a home, call Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 338745.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Vale Makers

VALE Makers enjoyed a very successful inaugural year in 2019, bringing locally-made craft to a wider audience.

With their first craft festival in September 2019 and Christmas Makers Market at the Old Hall in December, they were delighted by the support from visitors calling in to browse the fabulous crafts on display. Feedback was entirely positive, commenting on the high quality and so many talented craftspeople operating so close to Cowbridge.

It is hoped to build on the progress this year; membership is steadily growing, but the group is keen to add to their numbers. If you are a maker in the rural Vale producing high-end craft, they would love to hear from you. Application forms and more information can be obtained by contacting hello@valemakers.org.

News from Treoes, Llangan and St Mary Hill

THE Llangan village road closure for maintenance work originally planned for two days was only closed for one by Openreach, reducing the inconvenience to the village, reports Nancy Davidge.

The next service at Saron Chapel will take place on Sunday, March 8 at 3pm with Rev Daphne Parker officiating. Everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

Interesting talks for Friends and Neighbours

FRIENDS and Neighbours held a busy February meeting at Beryl Road Pioneer Hall with new members being made welcome.

Sue Dyer with her beautiful Labrador Sid gave members a moving talk on her journey with blindness and how Sid has made her life so different.

Her talk on the services that Guide Dogs for the

Blind give including puppy training gave members an awareness of the importance of the organisation. A vote of thanks was given and a collection taken.

Members enjoyed refreshments, followed by an interesting talk by Nic Hodges on Victorian Barry in the 1880s to 1910. He told tales of local characters relating to hospitals and pubs.

Members are now looking forward to the trip to Porthcawl early in March. Contact coordinator Gay Fifield on 01446 400044 for further information.

Living with Cancer Strollers go on safari!

IN Africa, the 'Big Five' are a huge attraction for people visiting the safari parks: rhino, lion, elephant, leopard and buffalo.

On the Living with Cancer stroll in February the group were treated to the Little Five and enjoyed spotting a rabbit, squirrel, Dalmatian, blue tit and pigeon! Eyes could be occasionally lifted from the mud below our feet to enjoy the wildlife, as walkers had to be very careful to navigate themselves through the quagmire created by Storm Ciara the

previous weekend. Two new walkers were welcomed to the group and enjoyed the walking, talking and refreshments.

If you want to join us, we are back to our normal schedule in March: the first Thursday of the month, 10.30am at Cosmeston Country Park.

LF

PACT in the Vale

COME along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon.

Dyfan PACT will be held at the Barry Fire Station, Port Road West, Barry, on Monday, March 2 at 7pm at Barry Fire Station.

'Cuppa with a Copper' will be held at Penarth Library on Thursday, February 27 at 1.30pm.

Meet your local officer at Atlantic College (next to the food hall) on Thursday, February 27 between 5.30pm and 6.30pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or visit

www.south-wales.police.uk for contact details for your local PCSO for non emergency matters.

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Eye care at home made simple

Specsavers' home-visiting service makes sure that people who struggle to leave their homes unaccompanied are not forgotten, as they bring the optician to them

DID you know that eye care is available in your own home? According to a recent YouGov survey*, 58% of over 50s in the UK are unaware that people can have their eyes tested at home, or in sheltered accommodation or care homes. This applies to people who cannot visit a high street optician unaccompanied due to a physical or mental illness or disability. The eye tests are funded by the NHS for those people who are eligible.



Specsavers is prepared to go the distance to protect the nation's eye health with their home-visiting service. More than two million people in the UK are living with sight loss, and nearly 40% of them, most of whom are aged over 70, could have their sight improved by wearing correctly prescribed glasses.

Yet only one in three people who are eligible for a free NHS-funded home eye test are currently benefiting from this amazing service.

About Specsavers home visits

Home eye tests from Specsavers are carried out with the same care and attention as in a Specsavers store. You can request a home visit for yourself or on behalf of someone else and they'll come at a time that is convenient for you.

If the eye test shows that you need glasses, Specsavers' team will help you choose and try on new glasses from a range of 160 different styles. Specsavers'

aim is to improve the overall confidence of older people, helping them to look good and feel good too. What's more, if you qualify for NHS funding, you may also be eligible for free glasses from their £19-£49 range.

A caring partnership

Housebound customers can also take advantage of Specsavers' partnership with Royal Voluntary Service, whose trusted volunteers can support their clients at home during their eye tests. This year the partnership will see the charity's 18,000 volunteers mobilised to inform thousands of eligible UK residents about Specsavers' home-visiting service.

Stella Green, 99, is a Specsavers home visits customer. Macular degeneration and cataracts have left her with impaired vision, which means she needs more support at home, so she's visited weekly by Royal Voluntary Service volunteer John Aylward.

Stella says that she was impressed by the eye test offered by the Specsavers home-visiting team: 'The test was very thorough, and it was really comfortable having it in my own home. Having them come to see me makes me feel like a star and that I'm very important!'



For more information about Specsavers visiting you or your loved one at home, visit specsavers.co.uk/home-eye-tests or call 0800 089 0144

*YouGov omnibus survey of a representative 50+ UK sample, February 2020, 2013 respondents



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Youngsters show racism the red card



PUPILS from Jenner Park and St Cyres schools were recently joined by the leader and deputy leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council for a workshop, hosted in partnership with the charity Show Racism the Red Card.

Cllrs Neil Moore and Lis Burnett took part in the morning session, which saw the youngsters discuss what racism is and why people may discriminate against one another.

The students were then tasked with writing a newspaper article recalling incidences of racism, both historic and more recent.

For the afternoon session, Barry Town and Cwmbran Town players Kayne Mclaggon and Sean Wharton took part in a Q&A session.

They were joined by Youth Champion and

Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture, Cllr Kathryn McAffer.

During the Q&A, pupils posed questions to the trio, including whether Kayne and Sean had themselves been victims of or had witnessed racial abuse, and what to do if they were faced with racism. Prizes were given for the best questions.

Council Leader Cllr Neil Moore said: "We continue to value our partnership with Show Racism the Red Card. The work they do helps ensure that our children are educated about racism, and that they grow up understanding that people of all skin colours and nationalities deserve to be treated equally and with respect.

"The pupils were all incredibly engaged and contributed well to the sessions, they all agreed they'd learnt something new."

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Flooding aftermath: 'Government's cuts must be revisited'

COMMENTING on the Welsh Government update on Storm Dennis and its Emergency Flood Summit on February 25, speaking outside the Senedd chamber, Shadow Minister for Environment, Andrew RT Davies AM/AC said: "The scenes across south Wales have been truly devastating, and my thoughts and sympathies remain with those who have been badly affected over past couple of weeks.

"With the post-mortem underway, the Welsh Labour Government's continued failure to publish a flood risk management strategy must be rectified as soon as possible so the most up-to-date defences

and coastal risk management activities are implemented to protect communities across Wales.

"The Welsh Government and UK Government must also continue its joint approach to securing the safety of the thousands of coal tips that lie across South Wales, following the landslip we witnessed last week in Tylorstown.

"Finally, serious reconsideration must be afforded to the flatline budget given to Natural Resources Wales.

"As the Minister herself has previously conceded, Welsh Government budget decisions are impacting directly on the ability of NRW to deliver services and take on new duties, and this real-terms cut must be revisited, especially in light of the dramatic floods and the Welsh Government's declaration last year of a climate emergency."

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Prince Charles gets charity's daffodil appeal underway



PATIENTS at Marie Curie's hospice in Penarth and workers at Aston Martin's St Athan factory received a visit from Prince Charles last week.

His Royal Highness pulled up at the Aston Martin base in his own Volante convertible, which was given to him as a 21st birthday present from the Queen.

The Prince of Wales also jumped behind the wheel of the car manufacturer's new luxury DBX and took it for a test drive

before chatting with workers on the factory floor.

During his visit, the heir to the throne placed a wings badge on the front of a DBX, which will be located in the reception area of the new Aston Martin facility.

The Prince – who also visited flood-hit Pontypridd – then made his way to Penarth for a tour of the Marie Curie Hospice.

His visit tied in with the charity's 60th anniversary and the launch of this year's Great Daffodil Appeal.

Prince Charles, who has been a

patron of Marie Curie since 2003, met several patients and their families as well as hospice staff.

Actor and Marie Curie ambassador Suzanne Packer greeted the Prince before he unveiled a plaque to mark his visit and cut a daffodil cake, made by Michelin-starred chef James Sommerin.

His Royal Highness became the first person to sign the charity's Great Big Daffodil, which starts its UK-wide tour in Cwmbran and Cardiff this week.

Former Rhoose resident

Maureen Russell, a patient at the hospice, was a staff and volunteers, volunteer cook in the Ladies' Army during World War Two.

The 97-year-old said about Prince Charles' visit: "He's a nice man and he does his job so well. He seems very down to earth and he held my hand which was nice.

"It was clear to see how important it is to him that people at the end of life get the care they need. As we've just launched our annual flagship fundraising campaign, the Great Daffodil Appeal, it's fitting that His Royal

Highness heard personal stories from patients and staff, and took the time to sign our Great Big Daffodil petal, which will start a UK tour next week.

"We couldn't provide the care that we do without the generous support of the public in Penarth and

"It was great to across the country, have the opportunity which is why we're hoping to raise a quarter of a million pounds

of

our patients, their family, and our hospice this year's appeal."



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Airport's Wear Red for Wales day raises £500 for charity

WORKERS at Cardiff Airport celebrated Wear Red for Wales and Velindre Day recently, raising more than £500 for the Airport's charity of the year, Velindre Cancer Centre.

The partnership enables Velindre and Cardiff Airport to work together on fundraising.

Departments helped to raise money by wearing red to work, collecting passenger donations and a 'Red-dy Steady Cook' bake-off event. Velindre's mascot Lomu the Lion, made a visit to the airport, surprising passengers in the departure lounge.

Lisa Morgan, chair of Cardiff Airport's charity committee said: "We are really proud of the team for their support and enthusiasm on our first charity event of the year, and are delighted to have helped raise important funds for Velindre. We are already looking forward to building on this success with our next event, a charity Quiz Night on February 28. Onwards and upwards!"

Kylie McKee of Velindre added: "Money raised from this campaign will help us fund projects to support children who have family members or friends living with cancer, and deliver counselling and other support services to patients, families and children: so thank you to Cardiff Airport for their support and helping us make a difference."



BBC to bring viewers a breath-taking visual tour of Wales

FOR the first time on television, the full story of the remarkable riches of the art of Wales will be set out – as well as the places, people and history that inspired it.

Presented by broadcaster Huw Stephens, The Story of Welsh Art will take viewers on a breath-taking visual tour of the nation, from stunning bronze-age artefacts to delicate medieval stained glass; from gentry portraits to folk art, some of the most thrilling and ground-breaking landscape art in the world to award-winning cutting edge contemporary pieces.

The programme will include art made in Wales by homegrown artists as well as art of Wales by world-renowned artists.

Produced by Wildflame Productions, this three-part landmark production will air on BBC One Wales and BBC Four, and will bring the history of Welsh art to life in HD for the first time. It is expected to air early next year.

Huw Stephens said: "The Story of Welsh art is something I'm very

much looking forward to overdue and in many cutting edge of artistic making. I get to travel ways series of firsts: Wales to see the art that the first time we've told UK's first landscape tells the story of our the sweeping history of artist, Richard Wilson, country, and meet those who have their own take and the first time much Gwen John, to Bedwyr on it. I'm hoping it's of our art will have been Williams' electrifying going to be a surprising, captured in high definition installations today. illuminating and fascinating journey."

BBC Cymru Wales Director of BBC in putting a spotlight on head of commissioning Arts Jonty Claypole this breathtaking story Nick Andrews said: "Welsh artists of creative vision, voice "This series is long have always been at the and virtuosity."



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NEWS FROM LOCAL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Dinas Powys WI's charity donations

DINAS Powys WI presented a cheque for £1,100 to the Welsh Air Ambulance Service and a similar amount was collected for the Dinas Powys Riding for the Disabled, the two charities supported by the Institute during 2019.

Cantorion Coety spring concerts

CANTORION Coety recently held their AGM, and were delighted to learn that the music team and the full committee were more than prepared to serve for another year.

President Dr John Elfed Jones said he was very proud of the performances given by Cantorion Coety during last year, especially the concerts given to support community activities – including their home community of Coity. It was great news to know that among those serving Cantorion Coety next year will be the musical director Eira Paskin, Eirianwen Stanford as chairperson and Sue Prosser, secretary.

Cantorion Coety are currently preparing for the St David's Day Cawl a Chân evening, as the guest choir with the Ogmore Vale Male Choir on March 1. Also, the choir have accepted an invitation to perform at the Porthcawl Pavilion on March 21. The concert will celebrate the sounds and landscapes of our Wales, under the title of Soundscapes, or Seinwedd, and is coordinated through Awen Cultural Trust.

ARJ

Townswomen's Guild enjoy lunch

SINCE my last report we have enjoyed two lunches – always the most popular activity!

The first was at Finnegan's: who can resist good fish and chips? Then we had our birthday luncheon at The Grove welcoming old friends from Cardiff. We had a very interesting talk at our last meeting from Gail Ivins telling us about 'Sea Glass Trinkets and Treasures'. We each received samples of her finds along the beaches, and she had a display of items she had made from these pieces. We will all be looking more closely at the beach now!

Our next meeting is on March 11 at 2pm at All Saints' Church hall , our AGM; and we will also have someone from Porthcawl National Coastguard Institution showing us a video of their work. We raised £500 for them recently, so it will be interesting to see how the money is used. Do come and find out for yourself!

DT

SE Asia talk for WI members

FOLLOWING our business meeting, Nick Thornton accompanied by his wife Anne, a member of Vale Photographic Society, gave an audio visual presentation entitled 'Scratching The Surface of South East Asia'.

His work was inspired by the cruise Nick and his wife Anne had taken in 2014. Nick managed to match evocative music with a proverb from each destination with visual images, very skilfully. We were transported from China and the Terracotta Army to the floating villages of Vietnam.

Next the moving icon of a liner, leading us across a map took us to Hong Kong with the bustling street markets contrasting with the dominating sky scrapers. After several other destinations we alighted in Singapore with the elegant Raffles hotel and Singapore's Merlion statue, which represents Singapore's origin as a fishing village.

Members gave Nick enthusiastic applause for his multi-media presentation.

President Jean had reminded members of upcoming events including those arranged for the sub groups, namely The Walkie Talkies, the craft group and the Culture Vultures. We also have a monthly social event.

Our February event was a quiz night at Aberthyn village hall. Four teams competed for the prizes, which were won by The Abstainers, who relied on tea and coffee during the evening – unlike the other teams!

The next meeting is on Thursday, March 19 at The Lesser Hall, Cowbridge when Ava Plowright will give a talk on Shelter Cymru. All are welcome.

SBJ

THERE were two memorable occasions recently for the Penarth and District Ramblers – the group walk in the snow and then a celebration.

Despite a cold and wintry forecast, William and his nine companions set off to enjoy an 11-mile hike to the highest peak in the Black Mountains. Heading up through a dark pine forest to the Ffawyddog ridge and out onto open moorland and climbing onto higher ground, a biting north westerly wind hit them full on. Turning westwards along the escarpment, they decided to remain on high ground to take advantage of the glorious snowy views, as they trudged south, passing Y Grib or the Dragon's Back, before climbing to the 810-metre mark on Waun Fach.

As heavy clouds threatening more snowfall gathered above them, they moved on, slithering their way to the 800m Pen y Gadair Fawr and, as the weather began to close in, they carefully made the steep descent back to the Grwyne Fawr valley and their start point after an exhilarating day.

Ann from the group is a prime example of how exercise and contact with friends boosts both mental and physical well-being, and on Valentine's Day, she opted for a walk followed by lunch at the Blue Anchor in East Aberthaw, where she was joined by 36 ramblers to celebrate her birthday.

William and his fellow walkers went through Aberthaw Nature Reserve, along the coast to Gileston and inland through muddy fields to St Athan, then through the Rills Valley to the ruined East Orchard Castle high above the River Thaw.

Continuing by track to Baronswell and fields at the rear of Aberthaw Power Station and reaching Limpert Bay, the track behind the sea defence wall led them back to East Aberthaw.

Fifteen walkers joined Joy on a shorter walk which took in Port Road to Nurston, around the perimeter of Cardiff Airport to the coast to follow the Wales Coast Path back through Fontygary to Pleasant Harbour. There was another surprise for Ann when her daughter Angela, who lives in Germany, arrived to join the celebration.

Thanks to the Blue Anchor for their hospitality on such a busy day, to James and his fellow workers for the delicious food and to everyone who shared their love with Ann on this very special Valentine's Day.

On February 29, a nine-mile moderate/hard walk to Cwm Lickey near Pontypool (please note no dogs except registered assistance dogs allowed); call Clive on 029 2065 4156. For up to date information log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or follow on Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

Llantwit Major Town Twinning Association

THE Llantwit Major Town Twinning Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting at the Bowls Club on Thursday, March 12, commencing at 7pm.

The Association was reformed in March 2018 and has since attracted a significant number of members and friends. Several successful fundraising events have been organised to generate funds for the exchange programme with Le Pouliguen in southern Brittany.

At the meeting, details will be given of a proposed visit to Le Pouliguen in September 2020, with a return visit to Llantwit Major planned for 2020.

The Association is keen to attract more members, particularly younger people and representatives from sports clubs, and all are welcome to attend.

Bridgend YFC's eloquent young orators

GLAMORGAN Young Farmers Club recently hosted their public speaking day in Pendoylan Church of Wales School.

Competition was fierce, debate was animated and the audience were captivated by the passionate and emotive speeches being delivered. The judge, Mrs Anwen Nicholls had the most difficult task of coming to a decision on best team of the day.

A strong team from Bridgend Young Farmers was triumphant in the Senior Mace Debating competition. Jacob Anthony, Morgan Williams, Tabitha Anthony, Ewan Key and Ffion Lewis all proved to the judge that they were distinguished speakers and powerfully held their own against fierce competition from Maendy YFC. Jacob Anthony was named as



the Best Speaker of the day along with Catrin Hill from Neath YFC. Ewan Key was the highest scoring chairman.

Jacob Anthony and Morgan Williams from Bridgend YFC will go on to represent Glamorgan at the Wales YFC Public Speaking finals in the Royal Welsh Showground next month. Tabitha Anthony was selected as first reserve for the team.

I am sure that the Bridgend team will do Glamorgan proud. Bridgend's two junior reading teams also gave notable performances and although unplaced, enjoyed themselves immensely.

Bridgend YFC would like to thank their trainers, Rob and Gwyneth Williams, Peter and Emma Anthony and Enid Rees for their invaluable support and guidance.

Gardening made easier for Barry Men's Forum

THE Forum welcomed Sheena Crossley to address members and talk being entitled "Gardening Made Easier".

Sheena trained many years ago at the Waterperry Horticultural College on the outskirts of Oxford. On receiving her qualifications she worked for the Cardiff Parks Department.

She wrote a gardening column for the South Wales Echo for over 12 years besides being the correspondent for the magazine Garden Answers. She has appeared on television with David Bellamy and was a regular contributor to HTV's *Get Gardening*. Sheena has spent many years passing on her knowledge to clubs and societies throughout south Wales.

Her talk started with a display of simple but effective gardening tools, followed by a talk on how to keep gardening simple – but pleasing to the eyes. Many garden centres are only interested in selling products, but doing a little research on what is best for you and your garden can achieve one's

aspirations.

The meeting ended with a question and answer routine and members were delighted with the answers given, with the coming months gardens should achieve their full potential!

Forum meet every Thursday at Holy Trinity Church hall on Aberystwyth Crescent, Barry commencing at 9.45am; new members are always welcome and further information can be obtained from Mac Tanner on 01446 743455.

PG

Bridgend Quiz League

THE results from the Bridgend Quiz League for February 10 are:

Division 1: Oldcastle A 41, Laleston Inn A 46; Tondu Railway Club 44, TyRisha Royals 44; Penybont AFC Nomads 59, Crown Maesteg 41; Chatterton Shunters 43, Mackworth Arms 40.

Division 2: Cabo Roche 52, Prince of Wales Rebels 40; Six Bells Clangers 44, Pheasant Gamekeepers 44; Pheasant Pluckers 52, Tondu Railway Loco 26; Laleston Inn B 47, Oldcastle B 37.

Test your general knowledge with these teasers from the Quiz League:

1. What is the Spanish word for the number five?
2. What bird is also known as a halcyon?
3. Aldergrove was the old name of which UK city's airport?

SK

Answers: 1. Cincos; 2. Kingfisher; 3. Belfast

Send your community news to [editorial@gem-gem.co.uk](mailto:editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk)

Sisters double fundraising target for Macmillan

THEY have held a tarantula, braved an icy Boxing Day swim and taken on high ropes – now two sisters are gearing up to take on even tougher challenges for Macmillan Cancer Support in their mother's memory.

Sisters Verity Pyke of Cardiff, and Lauren Turner of Bridgend, have completed 12 of 20 fundraising challenges for Macmillan Cancer Support to mark 20 years since their mother Susan Turner died of breast cancer in April 2000.

The duo has doubled their £2,000 target by raising £4,000 for the charity with the challenges they have completed since April 2019. They have now set a new target of £5,000, which they hope to hit with their remaining challenges, which include a sky dive, a Cardiff Bay 10K run, walks up Pen-y-Fan and the O2 Arena, and a black tie dinner at the New House Country Hotel in Thornhill on May 15.

They are also asking the public to Leap for Macmillan on leap day, Saturday, February 29 and pay £1 for the leapfrogging challenge, which they can post on their Facebook group, Friends of 20420.

The sisters' challenges so far include: high ropes, holding a tarantula, breaking free

from an escape room, a 5K run, a muddy 5K,

Walking the Shine 10K,

a Boxing Day swim,

a virtual kindness challenge,

hosting a pub quiz,

taking on an extremely hard puzzle, doing 'Go Sober for October',

and adopting an animal at Folly Farm on their mum's birthday.

Teacher and mother-of-two Verity, 37, said:

"Our family are very proud and excited by the whole thing. They've been involved as much as they can be - our auntie joined us on our freezing cold swim and both aunties are coming up the O2 with us! Our Nan, who is sadly fighting cancer at the moment, has been incredibly supportive and has paid for our sky dives. It's been important to us that we pay for all the challenges ourselves so that every penny raised goes to Macmillan."

The sisters are grateful to everyone who has helped them hit £4,000 so far – and they are looking for local businesses who can donate raffle prizes for their black-tie dinner.

Lauren (35) said: "The support we have received so far has been far beyond our expectations and I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported us along the way. We are on the lookout for raffle prizes for our black tie dinner in May and we still want to encourage people to come along to our challenges and take part with us. Continued support from people has made it

a fun and uplifting year so far."

Verity added: "We have been blown away by the support we have had from friends and family and people we have never met before. We would also like to thank all the local

businesses that have supported us through sponsorship or prize donations, in particular Tots Play North and Duncan Worgan Tyres, who are sponsoring our DJ at the dinner. We are currently looking for raffle prizes for our charity black tie dinner, so if any local businesses would like to donate, we would love to help promote you via our Facebook group Friends of 20420."

Richard Pugh, Head of Partnerships for Macmillan Cancer Support in Wales, said: "We'd like to say a huge thank you to Verity and Lauren for taking on these 20 fantastic challenges to support Macmillan in memory of their mum. Being diagnosed with cancer can turn lives upside down in a moment and the money they've raised will help us be there to offer practical, emotional and financial support for people with cancer in Wales and their loved ones."

"For support, information or just a chat about how Macmillan can help, please call us free on 0808 808 0000."

People can support Verity and Lauren, or donate towards their challenges, by visiting www.justgiving.com/20420.



Rachel Lewis, Verity Pyke, Emily Pyke, Lauren Turner and Theo Pyke

Celebs call on nation to put the kettle on, to stop people dying of bowel cancer

TV presenter Davina McCall, and chefs Lorraine Pascale and Ainsley Harriott are among the celebrities calling for the nation to put the kettle on and host a Brew Together fundraising event in April to raise money for Bowel Cancer UK's work in Wales.

April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month and this year Bowel Cancer UK is hoping more people than ever will get involved. Held at home, in your local community or at work, it's a chance to catch up with friends, family and colleagues over a cup of tea and make a donation to Bowel Cancer UK to help stop people dying of the disease by funding vital services and lifesaving research in Wales.

Hoping to inspire fundraisers, celebrities including Davina McCall, Tony Singh MBE, Ainsley Harriott, Lorraine Pascale, Sue Lawrence, and former Great British Bake Off contestant Martha Collison have donated their favourite recipes to have with a brew. These mouth-watering creations include: chocolate drop scones, Maltesers cupcakes, bread and butter pudding, Bollywood bar

and blueberry and almond muffins. Creator of 'Own Your Goals' Davina McCall said: "I'm proud to be supporting Bowel Cancer UK's Brew Together. My blueberry and almond cupcakes are guaranteed to go down a treat with your Brew Together guests."

Bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in Wales, with over 2,300 people diagnosed with the disease every year; however the disease is treatable and curable especially if diagnosed early.

Mike Locke, Wales fundraising manager at Bowel Cancer UK, said: "Bowel cancer is the second biggest cancer killer in Wales but with your help we can change that. All you need to do is take an hour out of your day to hold a Brew Together event, catch-up over a cup of tea or coffee and the money you raise will help fund vital services and lifesaving research to stop people dying of the disease."

Sign up today. Visit Bowel Cancer UK's website to request a free fundraising pack and try out our celebrity recipes bowelcanceruk.org.uk/brewtogether.

Send your stories and photographs
editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk





HOMES & Gardens

ADVERTISING FEATURE



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By converting to electric, we give your cooker a new lease of life, making it more economical and environmentally friendly.

The energy-saving benefits speak for themselves. Making better use of PV panels, a high portion of electric generated from grid is using renewables and it's no surprise that demand has led to the development of an innovative product that's proving successful as the ElectricKit Aga conversion.

Rayburn conversions coming soon!

MPN Windows is back in the 'Independent Network' family

FAMILY-OWNED MPN Windows, Doors and Conservatories has become a member of a prestigious national trade body and has also recently become accredited as a 'Which Magazine Trusted Trader'.

Independent Network only accepts the country's most professional window and door companies, and each one must undergo rigorous vetting before being allowed to join and display the IN branding.

Companies like MPN, which was one of the founding members of Fensa, must then agree to continuous auditing to ensure they maintain that same level of absolute professionalism.

Paul Webster, owner of MPN explained: "Independent Network

imposes very strict criteria on its members; we must commit to using exceptional quality VEKA materials and every single one of our customers is given a customer satisfaction report to complete, which is sent directly back to the organisation – so they can make sure we are as good as our word when it comes to quality products and installations.

"In this way, IN can be sure that we continue to operate to the highest standards and they are happy to offer our customers a fantastic 10-year insurance-backed guarantee.

"This provides complete peace of mind for customers. They can rest assured that their investment is safe and protected, and they can see – at a glance – that we carry the Independent Network logo, which signifies that we're among

the top VEKA fitters in the UK. "We were award-winning members of the organisation for many years, back when it was known as Network VEKA, and then we changed PVC-U suppliers and were no longer eligible.

Although the quality of our products was still good, we are so committed to customer satisfaction that we decided to make the move back to VEKA PVC-U so that we could rejoin the network and offer our customers all the benefits that go with it.

"Benefits include things like deposit protection, insurance-backed guarantees, finance options and a phenomenal choice of window styles and colours, to name just a few."

• See MPN's advert on page 17

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ONE of the questions that we are frequently asked is 'Just how bespoke are you?', the answer is simple – we are completely bespoke. While others in their advertising may 'claim' to be bespoke, offering you a multitude of options from a catalogue, we at Adam Elliot are totally the opposite – come and see the difference for yourself.

Come and see the furniture in production, where our team of highly skilled cabinet makers will be more than happy to explain the nuances of each piece of furniture. Meet with our design team who will guide you through the process of planning out

your dream kitchen. Being totally bespoke there are virtually no limits to what we can offer, even the most challenging of scenarios we can accommodate.

We also operate on a no obligation quotation system with absolutely no 'hard sell', so you will never be bombarded with calls where you feel pressurised into making a decision. We also NEVER have a sale, where unreasonably priced cabinets are slashed in price to give the false impression of a saving.

With all of this and an unrivalled level of finishing and customer support, it is not hard to see why we have a lengthy lead time. So, if you are looking at late summer/autumn 2020 or early 2021, please come and see us and Experience The Difference.

Efficient, reliable and great value for money

HERE at D Liscombe Aggregates, we pride ourselves on providing quality aggregates and materials to construction and landscaping companies and members of the public.

We aim to provide an efficient, reliable and

value for money delivery service to the Vale of Glamorgan and the surrounding areas.

We also offer advice and free site visits for anyone who is undertaking their own project and may be unsure of quantities required.

The company was established in 2018 by local builder David Liscombe after he saw a need for a local supplier of products for the building trade, and also for the general public to be able to purchase and have delivered any quantity, large or small. All the materials are also available in handy 20kg bags.

The Liscombe name is well known in the area, and has long been linked with the supply of building materials.

We have steadily grown over the last two years, with a loyal and regular customer base, and welcome anyone to contact us with any enquiries.

• D Liscombe Aggregates Ltd is situated on the Vale Business Park, Llandow – call into the yard or telephone us on 01446 773454.

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KEEPING BEES

News from Fonmaen Apiary
With Harold Williams



It's been a leisurely time for the winter bees



THERE has not been a lot of external activity just yet, however signs of spring are beginning to show.

Snowdrops, crocus and even some cherry blossom are out, so when the weather conditions are favourable some foraging is underway.

These foragers are the winter occupants of a hive and they are now some five months old, which is very old when you compare the lifespan of their summer sisters (six weeks).

Why this difference in lifespan?

Well, winter bees are not as active as their summer sisters. In summer it is all go for the occupants of the hive, and long summer days mean long working hours.

The procuring of nectar and pollen to provide for the internal occupants of the hive is the driving force that leads to this brief lifespan of a forager.

Before they take on their foraging lifestyle, each of these bees has already used up some three weeks of its six-week life growing into an adult.

What activities are undertaken by a young internal bee?

Their queen has to be cared for. Temperature and humidity levels must be maintained so that eggs may hatch. The larvae that develop from these eggs have to be fed; wax must be produced to build the cells to meet the ever-expanding population of a summer colony.

Cells that have seen use must be cleaned and made ready to accept incoming pollen or nectar, and of course to provide their queen with receptacles for her egg laying.

The incoming nectar and pollen must be allocated storage space so when a forager enters the hive she is met and relieved of her burden, and this is stored by the internal bees.

Another item that foragers collect is propolis!

This is a very sticky resin that trees and some plants produce, and the bees make use of it to seal up any cracks within the hive and as a very efficient disinfectant.

Should any object appear in the hive that the bees themselves have not introduced, it will be embalmed in propolis and very effectively isolated and rendered harmless to the inhabitants.

Much, much more goes on inside a summer beehive, even at night, so is it any wonder that this very useful insect just wears itself out in its pursuit of the welfare of colony members?

Our winter bees have no foraging to do; their sisters have left in-house stores to meet their daily requirements. Keeping themselves and their queen alive is their only task in hand, until the lengthening days herald the return of spring, and colony expansion gets underway – leading, of course, to their demise.

AM raises question of watercourse erosion on unclaimed land after concerns from residents

OGMORE AM Huw Irranca-Davies intends to raise the fraught issue of erosion by rivers and streams close to the back gardens of terraced houses in his constituency of Ogmor, which he believes may be a hidden problem affecting thousands of properties across Wales and England.

The recent storms have shown that we are going to face more frequent and heavy rain storms, causing our major rivers to flood in places which haven't seen flooding for many years. But residents in Ogmor have also raised with Huw their concerns over the many smaller streams in the upper valleys which turn into raging torrents under storm conditions. To make it worse, often there is no clear ownership of these riverbanks. A good example is the classic back-lane of a row of terraces which a stream may run alongside,

where decades ago the old council-truck may have rumbled along clearing out the bins. But more often now this is known as an 'unadopted road' or back lane, which the council does not own or maintain. As these un-owned lanes flood and get eroded, there is no-one to take responsibility for protecting the lanes or the properties.

One example of this is the back lane alongside Caerau Road and Blaencaerau Road in the upper Llynfi valley above Maesteg. This is normally a small watercourse, not even classified as a river in its upper reaches. Yet in the recent floods it surged over the back lanes behind the terraces. Over several years, residents say it has steadily eroded the banks towards the back gardens of the houses, and in some places the lane has become just a narrow path (see picture attached).

"If there is clear ownership of these lanes and the land up to the watercourse, then there is a clear legal position," says Huw, adding: "Where ownership can

Can we solve the plastic problem?

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTALIST Brian Mayne begins his new monthly column looking at everyday environmental issues.

Brian is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, as well as the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, Chartered Environmentalist and is recognised by the International Solid Waste Association as an International Waste Manager.

He begins his monthly series of articles with a look at some of the issues surrounding plastics.

It's difficult not to turn on the TV, read a paper or look online these days without seeing a story about plastics polluting our seas, littering our streets and poisoning our wildlife, so what can be done?

To begin with, it's worth reminding ourselves that plastic is not just one material – technically it's a collective term for a variety of synthetic polymers.

Goods made from plastics have been increasing exponentially since the middle of last century. Many of these products, unfortunately, are created for single use; roughly half of plastic is used once and thrown away.

Not only is this harmful to the environment and the oceans, but it is also damaging to wildlife



– where it affects hundreds of species in the ocean. The Ocean Conservancy reported that plastic has been found in more than 60 per cent of all seabirds and 100 per cent of sea turtle species.

And things are not getting any better.

The World Economic Forum states that 32 per cent of the 78 million tons of plastic packaging produced annually is left to flow into our oceans; the equivalent of pouring one refuse truck of plastic into the ocean every minute. This is expected to increase to two per minute by 2030 and four per minute by 2050. By 2050, this could mean there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans.

A solution to the plastic problem requires government intervention, producer responsibility and consumer action. Welsh Government has already set out its ambition to phase out single use plastic.

Its aim to make Wales become the first country to send zero plastic to landfill is commendable. The intention, along with the UK Government and the other devolved administrations, is to introduce a number of measures including a plastic packaging tax, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for

packaging, a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers (Scotland has already introduced this), and applying bans or restrictions to phase out single use plastic.

EPR is a concept whereby brand owners and manufacturers take environmental responsibility for their products and the associated packaging when they become waste. This should help achieve more plastic being recycled, therefore reducing plastic waste.

Already in the Vale we can recycle plastics like shampoo/conditioner bottles, milk bottles, drinks bottles, Tetra Paks (eg juice cartons), cleaning product bottles, yoghurt pots, containers used for things like strawberries and takeaway plastic boxes and lids.

This list will likely expand as the new legislation is introduced.

A further element of the scheme will ensure that manufacturers start looking more closely at designing products for re-use or recyclability.

A major problem is that often products are designed with different materials mixed together, making it difficult to separate them and therefore problematic to recycle.

As far as recycling goes, we can have the best collection systems in the world, but if we as consumers don't use them or don't know how to use them properly, then the whole concept fails.

In the same way it's pointless to collect materials for recycling, unless there is a market. Fortunately, a major element of EPR is that not only does it involve companies engaging and encouraging the public to recycle but it also supports the development of markets.



Out & About with The GEM

What's on this week

Rail society meeting

THE February lecture of the Barry and Penarth Railway Society will take place on Thursday, February 27 at The Conservative Club, Stanwell Road, Penarth, CF64 2EZ, starting at 7.30pm when Lyn Brown will talk about 'Railways of the Burmese Oberland'.

Entrance is free to fellow rail enthusiasts and friends; bar service available.

History society at Rhoose

THE Rhoose History Society are holding a regular meeting at 7.30pm on Friday, February 28, at Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose, CF62 3EZ.

The speaker will be Phil Carradice whose topic is 'History like your teacher never taught you'.

All are welcome and tickets at the door are just £1 and 50p for children under 18 years old. A raffle will be available.

Spring fair at Penarth

COME to the Spring Fair on Saturday, February 29 in the Conservative Club in Penarth.

Doors open at 2pm and admission is £1, which includes coffee/tea and biscuits.

We will be selling cakes, cards, crafts, preserves, etc, and all proceeds go to Cancer Research UK.

St David's Day celebration

ON Saturday, February 29 in the Bayview Suite at Fontygwy Leisure Park, doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start.

Entertainment by Cantorion Creigau Community Choir, licensed bar and raffle.

Tickets £15, includes a Welsh-themed supper of leek and potato soup, sharing platters of cheese, bread and butter and bara brith and Welsh cakes. £5 from the sale of every ticket benefits Rhoose Community Library.

Admission by ticket only, from Rhoose Community Library and Chris Davies Estate Agents, Rhoose or phone 07791 514991.

Bingo event at Rhoose

THE Management Committee at Rhoose Community Hall is holding its February Bingo Afternoon on Saturday, February 29.

The doors will open at 1.30pm at the Hall in Stewart Road.

There will be the usual large raffle and light refreshments at the half time break.

Please come and join us for a fun afternoon.

Bridgend PACT

GARW PACT public meeting/drop in meetings will be held at the Men's Shed, Blaengarw Rugby Club, Pontcymmer on Wednesday, March 18 at 10am.

Sarn and Bryncoch PACT public meeting will be held at Sarn Life Centre on Monday, March 30 at 7pm.

St David's Day service

ST Tathan Church, St Athan celebrates St David's Day with a bilingual service at 11am and a Grand Concert at 2.30pm featuring St Athan Primary School Choir, St Athan Youth Brass Band, Harping On, and many other local artists.

Free entry which includes refreshments.

A retiring collection in aid of the church tower and bells restoration project.

Dewch yn Ili I ddathlu Gwyl ein Nawddsant.

Dog friendly knitting group

A KNITTING and crochet group is now meeting at The Llangwydd Arms, Broadlands, Bridgend.

Organiser Shelaugh Shepherd told The GEM: "We meet every Monday from 1.30pm to 4pm and are dog friendly and wheelchair friendly."

We have a raffle every week and donate £2 a week to The Dogs Trust."

For more information, email shepherdsrest47@btinternet.com

Stroke club drop-in

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale are running a monthly drop-in Stroke Club in the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Would you like to recognise a local hero?

Council is calling for nominations for Citizen of the Year Awards 2020

Town Council office on 01446 773385, or email c.p.john@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk.

* The closing date for nominations is Friday, March 27 with presentations taking place at the Town Hall on Friday, May 1 in Cowbridge Town Hall.

HAS someone you know gone above and beyond for the community?

Have they done something amazing you feel they should be recognised for their achievement?

Then why not nominate your local hero for this year's Cowbridge with

Llanblethian Citizen of the Year Awards.

Town Mayor, Cllr Alec Trousdale, would like to invite you to nominate the unsung heroes in

the community for a are sought in five categories – Citizen of the Year Award, Business of the Year, Team of the Year, Environmentalist Award and the Young

Citizen of the Year. To cast your nomination form

online. download the nomination form

on Friday, May 1 in Cowbridge Town Hall.

You will be able to get help with services available in the Vale, and chat to others over a cuppa.

The next session will be held on Thursday, March 5 from 10am to 12pm.

Why not just come along? Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Twining Association

LLANTWIT Major Town Twinning Association will hold a St David's coffee morning in the Llantwit Hall on Saturday, February 29 to promote Fairtrade in the town.

The event will commence at 10am, admission £3 to include refreshments, and Welsh cakes.

There will be a prize raffle and entertainment will be provided by the local ukulele band.

In line with Glaucoma Awareness Week, an adviser from Glaucoma Association Cardiff and Vale will be at a drop-in information session at

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, March 3 from 10am to 12pm.

No appointment is needed. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Alternatively, call David Howells on 01446 774306.

Anyone who is looking to join the Royal British Legion is also welcome; you do not have to be ex-service to join.

Coffee with the bowls club

A COFFEE morning will be held on March 2 at Cadoxton Bowls Club in Victoria Park from 10.30am; all are welcome.

New members are always welcome.

Meet author Catrin

A BOOK talk takes place with Catrin Collier on her new book *Glyndwr: The Foretold Son* on Tuesday, March 3 from

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, March 5, there will be a water-colour demo by Bristol artist and tutor Tim Wilmot (see www.tim-wilmot.com) a prolific demonstrator with almost 50,000 followers of his YouTube tutorials.

Glaucoma information

GLAUCOMA is a common cause of age-related vision problems in seniors.

The theme is 'Rise, take your mat and walk' and the invitation is for everyone – men, women and children – to come and join this day of

prayer.

The service has been prepared this year by the women of Zimbabwe; they encourage us to reflect on the difficulties

they have suffered over many years and share the challenges they have met, and the hopes they have for the future.

The Day of prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries: it begins in Samoa and travels through Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 36 hours later.

The service will be followed by refreshments. For further information, visit the WWDP website: www.wwdp.org.uk.

Cream tea for carers

IF you are looking for information and support with your caring role, come along to the stage door at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl on

Friday, March 6 from 12.30pm–3.30pm and find useful information while enjoying a spot of free afternoon tea.

Organised by BAVO's Community Navigators Project and Bridgend Carers Centre, information and support for carers will be available throughout the afternoon, alongside taster sessions in Tai Chi, stress control techniques, confidence building and more.

For more information, contact Jodie Williams at BAVO on 0792 321 2731 or jodie.williams@bavo.org.uk.

World Day of Prayer

THE local celebration of the World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday, March 6 at 2pm at Elfed Avenue United Church, Penarth.

The theme is 'Rise, take your mat and walk' and the invitation is for everyone – men, women and children – to come and join this day of

prayer.

The service has been prepared this year by the women of Zimbabwe; they encourage us to reflect on the difficulties

they have suffered over many years and share the challenges they have met, and the hopes they have for the future.

The Day of prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries: it begins in Samoa and travels through Asia, Africa and the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 36 hours later.

The service will be followed by refreshments. For further information, visit the WWDP website: www.wwdp.org.uk.

KPC money saving tips

DIGITAL Communities Wales will be running a course at KPC on how to save money online on Tuesday, March 10 from 1pm–3pm.

All welcome to attend this free course, but please contact KPC to book your place.

The course will cover saving money on

insurance, utilities, 'cash back' and raising money online.

Call 01656 749219 or email: info@kpcyouth.com.

Bron Y Mor, Y Cnap.

On Wednesday, March 4, at 10.30am, the Barry

Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Bron Y Mor Car Park, Cold Knap, Barry.

Also on March 4, the Cowbridge Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Physic Garden Fountain, Cowbridge.

On Thursday, March 5 at 10.30am, the Living

with Cancer Strollers

meet at the visitor Centre, Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on March 5 at 2.30pm, the Penarth Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Penarth cliff top car park.

On Sunday, March 8 at 2pm, 'Around Gileston', meeting at Gileston Beach car park, CF62 4HX.

On Wednesday, March 11 at 10.30am, the Llantwit Major Coffee Shop Strollers meet at Llantwit Major town hall.

On Thursday, March 12 at 10am, 'Over the hill', starting at the Sportsmans Rest, Peterson-super-Ely, CF5 6LH.

Caribbean night

A CARIBBEAN night raising funds for Oddballs testicular cancer charity will take place on Saturday, March 28 at The Horse and Groom, Cowbridge, from 7pm until late.

Live bands Juice Lu and the Sherbet Pips and Stupid Stunts will perform along with DJ Andrew Pritchard.

There will be a barbecue and raffle, with prizes donated by Cowbridge shops. Tickets are £10 each and fancy dress is optional!

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, March 1 at 2pm, 'Cennin pedr Gwyllt', Y Swyddfa Bost, Sant-y-Brid, CF32

10am, 'Ar Lan Y Mor 2', Y Barri, maes parcio

to attend.

The group meets in Y Bont in Bridgend and the next scheduled meeting is March 18 at

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The group meets in

Another year - another great production for the talented Bridgend Youth Theatre



The Bridgend Youth Theatre's Guys. Photos taken by Mandy Thomas Photography

IT'S Friday night, I am sitting in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, and I am more than somewhat excited, as tonight the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) will be performing the classic musical *Guys and Dolls*, writes Glamorgan Gem reporter Philip Irwin.

What's more, I am further reassured because I see that Mr Roger Burnell is the director, Miss Annie Davies is the choreographer, and Miss Shelley Rees is the assistant director.

Now, people who know these things tell me that Shelley knows more about stagecraft than Mindy's know about cheesecake, while Annie knows more about dancing than Benny Southstreet knows about setting odds for the 3.30 at Saratoga.

Furthermore, I am reliably informed that Roger Burnell knows more about musical theatre than Big Jule from Chicago knows about mixing

quick-drying cement.

OK. Enough of the Damon Runyan pastiche, but the point here is that *Guys and Dolls* does ask you to leave your modern-day sensibilities behind and enter a perfectly preserved imaginary world. In Damon Runyan's New York, grifters and gamblers are 'characters' and the dolls are strictly decorative. You won't find any of the female characters carving out a career as a corporate executive.

Even the gangsters are comic figures – unless they have put out a contract on you.

So, *Guys and Dolls* is as much an imaginary world as Brigadoon, but when you suspend your judgement and enter, you find yourself in one of the perfect musicals, where every song has its place, and every line of dialogue will either make you laugh or will move the plot along.

The story pivots around two romances. There is the long-running one between crap game organiser Nathan Detroit (Jude Blake) and night club singer Miss Adelaides (there were two Miss Adelaides – more on that later).

They have been 'engaged' for 14 years but Nathan, in modern parlance, is a commitment phobe.

Then there is the (almost) love at first sight romance between the professional gambler Sky Masterton (Jack Williams), and Miss Sarah Brown of the Salvation Army (Eddylyia

Osbourne).

Now, Jack and Eddylyia were the leads four weeks ago when Porthcawl Comprehensive School put on *Sister Act* and they picked up rave reviews on social media. As a result, I thought that people would return to see them in this show but Porthcawl is a funny town and, despite local actors featuring in BYT shows, residents simply do not show up in the numbers you would hope for. The stay-aways missed a treat.

Let's leave the lead actors for the moment, because the BYT has always been about more than that. The show opens with two young girls on stage, and their role is to watch and react as the larger-than-life Runyon characters appear.

They point at the glamorous ladies, the attentive boy-friends, the scurrying small time crooks, the cops, the show girls, the Salvation Army and the cops.

As with so many BYT shows, there is too much happening on stage to take it all in, but the point is that the young ones learn early that they are on stage to act and react, not just to stand there – and it pays dividends years later when it's their turn to tackle main roles.

So, let's return to the lead roles. Jack Williams, playing Sky Masterton, is attracting the interest of a number of drama colleges and this show only enhanced his prospects. His acting has always been solid but his singing has come on in leaps and bounds.

You can totally believe that the strait-laced buttoned-up Miss Sarah could fall for him.

His big number, of course, is 'Luck be a Lady' and he was right on the money with this one.

Miss Sarah (Eddylyia Osbourne) and her director set a trap and I have to confess that I fell right into it. Her first song, a duet with Sky, is 'I'll Know' – one of those songs when the singers are getting interested in each other, against their better judgement.

I thought her delivery of this song was too formal – too classical – but that was part of the set up for 15 minutes later, when Sky had whisked her off to Havana, and she had (literally and figuratively) let her hair down after several Cuban cocktails.

'If I were a Bell' is one of the classic Broadway tunes – a real swing number about falling in love and she was perfect – exuberant and lost in the moment. The contrast between her first meeting with Sky and this evening in Cuba was only emphasised by the way she sang the two songs.

I didn't see *Sister Act* but friends I trust tell me she was at home with the pop and soul songs in that show, so Eddylyia has really proved her versatility in a breakthrough year for her.

Returning to the other pair of lovers, Jude Blake (Nathan Detroit) is another BYT stalwart who gets better each year, and he was completely



at home playing the stressed out, put upon fixer who is under pressure from all sides.

He had the extra challenge of rehearsing with two Miss Adelaides, as Lili Smith took the role on Thursday, while Aisling Thomas was the Friday Adelaide.

When the BYT performed *Chorus Line* last year, these two took key comedy roles, and they proved their worth again this year. Aisling opted for comedy red wig, while Lili chose to use her own hair, so to speak, but they both had the audience in stitches, making the most of one of the great Broadway comic roles.

'Adelaide's Lament' – explaining why she can't shift her psychosomatic cold, is a great comic song and they both squeezed the naximum out of it.

There were plenty of strong performances from the rest of the cast. Patrick O'Neill was excellent as Benny Southstreet, and he worked well on stage with William Evans, who played Nicely Nicely Johnson.

William, of course, gets one of the biggest numbers – 'Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat' and he and the entire cast brought the house down with it.

In many ways, 'Sit Down' is the show's finale. There's a bit of plot to tie up, and Miss Adelaide and Miss Sarah find common ground in the belief that they can each make the man of their choice mend his ways once they are officially hitched ('Marry the Man Today').

Then the lovers get married and, in the best tradition of fables and fairy tales, they head off to live happily ever after. Another year, another great BYT show. Roger Burnell is a Cardiff City fan and, if the Bluebirds were as consistent in performance level as the BYT, they would have been in the Premier League for the last 20 years!





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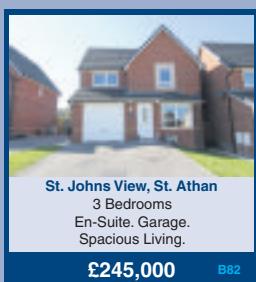
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The Vale Nature Diary



With OSCAR WAINWRIGHT

The return of the otter...

PERHAPS my most memorable encounter before I could comprehend what I had seen the wildlife in the Vale was meeting an otter face-to-face. It was whilst I was out fly-fishing late one summer night that I spotted a pair of eyes that shone brilliantly in the torchlight, 20ft up-river. I was bewildered, and his face emerged above

the water, his fur a glossy chocolate brown, eyes gleaming, long whiskers protruding from his face. After this brief eye-to-eye inspection, the otter snorted loudly and once again dived beneath the water with a watery plop, the last time I saw or heard him that night.

These beautiful mammals, active and thriving in the Vale, are members of the mustelid family, which includes other weasel-like carnivores. They are exceptionally good swimmers and fish hunters as their bodies are uniquely suited to a semi-aquatic lifestyle. They are also voracious eaters, and an adult consumes at least 1kg of fish daily. On the River Thaw their diet usually consists of the popular fishermen's quarry: Brown trout. They are, however, somewhat opportunistic, taking other prey like amphibians, birds' eggs and even small mammals! Because of this high-calorie diet, otters require a reliable hunting ground, and are thus very territorial, leaving spraints as a warning sign to other otters. This territorial nature means that the River Thaw, a relatively small watercourse, is controlled by just a few otters who

patrol their territories regularly. They are most often active at night and dusk, and although I have on occasion seen young otters swimming during the daytime in the Cowbridge area, the majority of my encounters with otters have been at night. The familiar sounds of their watery grunts and noisy splashing are incredibly exciting to hear when out on walks in the late evening. The resurgence in otter numbers in Wales since the 1970s is a real success story but they still face a variety of man-made threats. Historically they are perhaps one of the most persecuted mammal species in Europe, once thoughtlessly hunted for their fur. Otters are now a protected species under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Protection Act. Water pollution from agricultural run-off and industrial effluent is a significant threat to otter breeding; a study

published in 2013 by Cardiff University shows that pollutants may now be affecting male otters' reproductive systems. Traffic collisions also pose a serious threat to otters where roads extend through previously undisturbed otter territories. For example, the developments in and around Darren Farm and the new Aston Martin factory at St Athan have transformed those landscapes forever, as well as significantly altering the surrounding streams and watercourses where otters travel and hunt. We are yet to get any information about the results of the autopsy.

Having seen otters on many occasions, I decided to use an infrared camera trap to work out which areas are most often visited by the animals. I was excited to have filmed an otter on the first night setting up the camera. I've filmed the same adult male which patrols a long stretch of the River Thaw many times now and each video brings new surprises such as the otter never far away with construction mud and litter – a sad end. To see an



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Club helps keep RNLI lifeboats afloat

ON February 9, members of Llantwit Major 41 Club joined Chairman Brandon Dyke at a windswept Porthcawl RNLI Station to present a cheque to the RNLI in appreciation of the valuable work they do.

The RNLI volunteers at Porthcawl were delighted to receive the donation from 41 Club and their spokesperson announced that the timing of the donation coincided with the charity's fundraising drive, 'The Perfect Storm'.

The initiative by the RNLI has been launched to help meet their present and future needs. It will go towards covering the increased costs due to the growing number of launches that have happened in recent years.

Sadly, call outs will probably increase in the future.

Nationally, 41 Club and Tangent are hoping to raise £50,000 for the RNLI during their current presidents' term of office.

Llantwit Major 41 Club would welcome any past Round Tabler in the area who would like to attend one of their meetings. If you fancy coming along, contact secretary Bryn Morgan on 01446 793427.



Dog of the Week



GOLDEN oldie Lara is a loving 12-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier who walks well on the lead and despite being more mature, loves going for a walk.

Lara will need to be the only pet in the home as she prefers her own space and having all the attention and snuggles to herself. She is missing her home comforts and would love to be curled up in a nice soft bed by the fire enjoying her

afternoon naps.

Lara is looking for a quiet home and can live with children eight years old and above. She travels well in the car and is house-trained. She has the sweetest nature and is so deserving of her forever home.

For more information on Lara, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG; or give us call on 01656 338745. You can also visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Welsh Government leadership missing in struggle against flooding

TOWNS and villages in parts of Wales are still in the process of recovering from the two most recent seasonal storms – Ciara and Dennis – which hit over the past two successive weekends, causing misery to hundreds of families in Wales, and many more in other parts of the UK.

First expressing his gratitude to the emergency services, Paul Davies AM/AC – Leader of the Opposition in the Welsh Parliament – then questioned the First Minister over his administration's approach to flood prevention and alleviation strategies. He asked if the First Minister was confident that the Welsh Labour Government was doing all it could to protect communities, before referring to concerns raised by Mari Arthur, chair of Welsh Water's independent advisory panel.

She said: "We're missing that leadership, I feel, at the top to bring that together. That's why things aren't happening." Mr Davies said that it has been 10 years since the publication of the last flood risk management strategy, adding: "We have yet to see an updated strategy, which surely will help in making sure that responses are better coordinated in the future."

He then called on the First Minister to accept that the delay in publishing a flood risk management strategy has made some communities feel that flooding is simply not a priority, adding: "It's

time that more effective leadership is shown on this matter."

Mr Davies, who last week visited communities affected by flooding, reported conversations with businesses and residents and said: "Perhaps we need to rethink how we address flooding in the future, especially given the warning signs received at the start of the Assembly, because people I spoke with believe that more could have been done sooner to mitigate the impact of flooding on their communities."

Mr Davies added: "Let's be clear about this, we all accept that the Welsh Government can't control the weather – and nor can it prevent all flooding – but it is responsible for developing an holistic plan with all stakeholders and concerned parties."

"What these people, some of whom were hit twice within a week, need is reassurance that the Welsh Government will do all it can to prevent – and then mitigate the effects of – flooding, because storms, rain, and floods will, of course, come again."

"Key to this is updating the flood risk management strategy, and making it fit for the 2020s and onwards. We have been waiting for it for two years now, and to hear that the First Minister believes it will be ready in 'a couple of months' is too late, and must come as a bitter blow to those residents still trying to repair their homes after these devastating floods."

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Public Notice

PAULINE MARY BLACK (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of Pauline Mary Black, deceased, late of Bay View Lodge 26 Portkerry Road, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3HD, who died on 28/01/2019, are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 08/05/2020, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

JMD LAW LIMITED

26 - 28 James Street Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF10 5EX
T5783962

MAY ALICIA JONES (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 8 Lakelake Drive, Cowbridge, who died on 08/11/2019, are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 08/05/2020, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

JCP SOLICITORS

10 Pavilion Road Cowbridge CF71 7AB
T578782

ERIC THOMAS JOHN ROBERTS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of The Manor House, Hilary Road, Cowbridge CF71 7JF, formerly of 2 Princetown Cottage, Cowbridge Road Llanrhian, Cowbridge CF71 7JF, who died on 24/06/2019, are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 08/05/2020, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

JCP SOLICITORS

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FUMIS
Janet Lorraine
(née Erskine)

Peacefully on 20th February 2020 at Bella Vista
Nursing Home, Barry, Janet, devoted wife to
the late Luciano, much loved mum of Louise and
Natalia. Special mother-in-law of Neil and
Gareth, an adored nanny of Daniel, Will,
Luca and Lui.

*Janet will be greatly missed by all who
knew and loved her.*

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale
Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service
at All Saints Church, Barry on Tuesday, 3rd March
at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff &
Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired,
may be made at the service to support Ty Hafan,
Barry in memory of Janet.

HARTLEY
Dr. Eleanor

(Formerly of Marine Drive, Barry)

Peacefully on Thursday, 13th February,
surrounded by her loving family, Dr Eleanor
Hartley passed away at Ty Llandaff, aged 94
years. Adored mother of Antonia, Fiona, Jeremy
and Timothy, respected mother-in-law, beloved
grandmother and great-grandmother.

The funeral service will take place on Monday,
2nd March at St Mary of the Angels Catholic
Church, Canton at 12.15pm, followed by
committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium,
Barry at 2pm. Family flowers only, donations in
lieu of flowers will be collected at the service for
'MIND Cymru'.

All enquiries to David Monk-Roberts, Funeral
Director at J.Pidgeon & Son (Tel 02920 226604).

The family would like to thank all of the staff at
Ty Llandaff Care Home for their excellent care
over the past 2 years.

*Requiescat in pace.***SPARKES**
Diane Mary (née John)

Diane John sadly passed away on Saturday,
8th February, aged 60 years, after a short battle
with cancer and years of illness - Diane was
much loved by everyone who had the honour of knowing her: doting mother to
Jake, who loved her dearly, cherished sister to
Mark and Kathryn, incredible aunty to all her
nieces and nephews, a jewel in our family and a
loyal and fierce friend.

Diane will be missed beyond measure.

Diane's funeral, in celebration of her life, will be
held at A.G. Adams, Gladstone Road, on Friday, 6th
March at 10am. The service will be followed by a
private family committal at Cardiff & Vale
Crematorium, Barry.

There will be a wake to raise a toast to Diane and share
our fond memories of all that she was.
Flowers may be sent to the funeral home, but
donations to Crohn's and Colitis UK are also
welcome, so a collection will be made on the day.
Diane was full of life, so to celebrate that, please
wear bright colours in her honour on the day.

ATTWELL
John Kenneth

Retired BBC Broadcast Engineer
Passed away on Wednesday, 19th February, aged
75 years. Loving husband of Lynda, wonderful
father of Ellis and Bethan, father-in-law of Kate
and fantastic grampy of Eva and Isha.

*John will be greatly missed by all his
family and friends.*

The celebration of John's life will take place on
Thursday, 5th March at Thornhill Crematorium,
Wenall Chapel at 11.45am.

Family flowers only by request, a retiring collection
at the service in lieu of flowers will be collected for
City Hospice (which is based in the grounds of
Whitchurch Hospital).

All enquiries can be made to David Monk-Roberts,
Funeral Director at Pidgeon of Cardiff,
539 Cowbridge Road East, Victoria Park, Cardiff
(02920 226604).

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Diane Mary (née John)

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Diane will be missed beyond measure.

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Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 21
on 22nd February

TYLER UDE

Love you lots and lots,
to infinity and beyond
Mum & Paul xxx

Norman Weaver
Happy 90th Birthday
Dad
on 4th March 2020

Lots of Love from,
Lesley and grandchildren Mark,
Carrie & Pia and their partners
Louise, Dave & James and all your
great-grandchildren xxx

Michael Daw
50 today
on 1st March 2020

Celebrate in your usual style!!
Lots of Love from
Mum, Dad and all the family
xxxx ♥ xxxx

Anniversary

Diamond Wedding Anniversary!

Thank you

Janet & John Davies

wish to thank all our family and
friends for all the good wishes,
beautiful flowers and gifts received
for our Anniversary Celebration.

To advertise your situations
vacant, family notices, birthdays,
anniversaries, etc,
call Sue on 01446 774484

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Why not put a smile on
someone's face and show them
how much you care with a birthday
or anniversary announcement.

From only £11+VAT.

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email sales@
glamorgan-
gem.co.uk



Situations Vacant

The Glamorgan GEM

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Based in Cowbridge, full time position,
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Would suit an outgoing,
self-motivated
person to join our
dedicated sales team.

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for this position, please email
your CV to
jan.irving@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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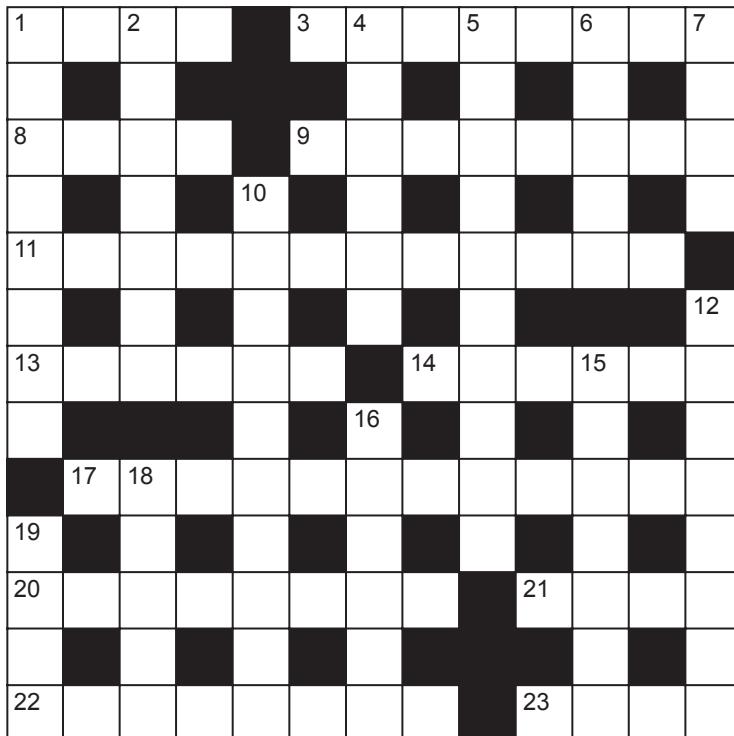
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future opportunities.

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local recruitment position
is through your
local paper.**

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competitive prices**
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THE GEM CROSSWORD



CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

- One means of producing inflation (4)
- 3 & 2Dn. Landlords who work in the theatre! (8,7)
- Spots the right tree (4)
- Not in favour of going to the photographer's after work (8)
- Charged too much (12)
- The usual thing sought by shopkeepers (6)
- Greater than ninety - that's insensitive (6)
- Valiant - but suffering from a fatty cardiac condition? (5-7)
- Broadcasting cables for quick means of communication (8)
- Not repeated in the concert (4)
- What the organ pedal produces is seen at the bottom of the page (8)
- March time of definite significance (4)

Down

- Of necessity, by means of coercion (8)
- See 3 Across
- About a harbour explosion (6)
- Traditional description of a saw! (10)
- Make higher wage increase in the States (5)
- Yes, oriental gurus advocate this philosophy, initially (4)
- For remission of sins, the sailor has the answer (10)
- Short of capital (8)
- Not keyed up (7)
- The Mad Hatter produces something ominous (6)
- The trunk is a different sort with ring attached (5)
- It comes from a local farm (4)

SOLUTIONS
Across: 1 Custom; 3 Pump; 5 Report; 6 Raise; 7 Yoga; 8 Crash; 9 Opposing; 11 Overburdened; 12 Headless; 13 Custom; 14 Dolt; 15 Untried; 16 Provocable; 17 Stout-hearted; 18 Torso; 19 Calif.
Down: 1 Footnote; 2 Masters; 4 Report; 5 Provocable; 6 Raise; 7 Yoga; 8 Crash; 9 Opposing; 10 Absolution; 11 Overburdened; 12 Headless; 13 Custom; 14 Dolt; 15 Untried; 16 Provocable; 17 Stout-hearted; 18 Torso; 19 Calif.
Foodnote: 23 Ideas.



**Do you have any memories
or photographs of VE Day?**

**The Glamorgan Gem is publishing a souvenir
pull-out to mark the 75th anniversary in May
and would love to hear your stories.
Call us on 01446 774484**

Tony Yates takes the Volvo S90 T8 AWD for a spin

THIS week's motoring review considers the S90 T8 – a vehicle that is beyond doubt an amazing piece of machinery, writes Tony Yates.

Power and efficiency

THIS particular S90 is powered by a 1969cc petrol engine that has 303hp and 400Nm of torque. Factor in the 87hp electric motor which also has an additional 240Nm of torque, and it means you really do start to see in a very short time how things can get very exciting indeed!

Top speed comes in at around 155mph and a 0-62 time, just a shy over 4.8 seconds. This is a big car, though – and I felt the engine was more than big enough to easily propel you from zero to hero in no time at all. If you select one of the more 'engaging' driving modes, things really do start to hot up!

On the road

I expected nothing but the best from the S90 and I was not disappointed. The S90 does not roll and scamper around like a scalded cat – it just glides. It's actually like driving around on a cushion of air. It's so good, I really just wanted to go out and buy one right away. Also, the grip levels are staggering and very well balanced, thanks to the Volvo engineers getting everything just right.

The S90 also has AWD which means it will keep you firmly planted to the road ahead. You also have the assurance that everything beneath you is doing a proper job of keeping on the right track. As we all know, Volvo majors on safety in all its vehicles, and the S90 is no different – it ticks all the boxes here. Well done, Volvo – for everything.

Safety and technology

THE S90 has many features and cutting-edge technology as standard: oncoming lane



mitigation, run-off road protection, driver alert control with lane keeping aid, dual stage driver and passenger airbags, SIPS, road sign information display, full-length IC (inflatable curtains) WHIPS, anti-theft alarm, 9" centre console portrait touch screen, DAB radio, Bluetooth handsfree system, Sensus Connect with high-performance sound (10 speakers), speed sensitive steering, hill start assist, drive mode settings, side and rear windows and a lithium-ion battery (11.6kWh).
In summary
 THE S90 is simply epic. Sometimes I wonder why I own a VW when it's clear in my mind that it is time I bought a Volvo. Price model as tested: £58,405, excluding options.

Just Go!
Holidays

UK BREAKS

By Coach from Bridgend & Cardiff

Reader travel

Tindle Newspapers

STUNNING SNOWDONIA

& Llandudno at Leisure



Departing Monday 11 May

On this relaxing break to the scenic coast of North Wales we enjoy the genteel ambience of Llandudno, known as the 'Queen of the Welsh Resorts'. We also explore Snowdonia with its awe-inspiring landscapes scattered with picturesque towns and villages.

Your break includes

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Bridgend & Cardiff**
- ✓ 4 nights at the Grand Hotel, Llandudno with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Entertainment every evening
- ✓ Excursion to Trefriw Woollen Mills, Betws-y-Coed, Llanberis & Caernarfon

Optional excursions to Chester (£12pp) and Bangor, Isle of Anglesey & Beaumaris (£12pp)

5 Days by Coach only £289

Single Supplement £60

RHS CHELSEA

Flower Show 2020



Departing Friday 22 May

The iconic Chelsea Flower Show is a must attend event, and if you haven't been yet, now is the time! This is the most prestigious flower show in the country, showcasing all the latest in garden design innovation in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Your break includes

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Bridgend & Cardiff**
- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4-star hotel outside London with dinner & full English breakfast
- ✓ Admission to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, with coach transfer

2 Days by Coach only £189

Single Supplement £35

NORTHUMBERLAND

Holy Island & Alnwick Castle



Departing Sunday 19 Jul

Ancient castles, vast sandy beaches and rolling moorland: the rugged scenery and seascapes of Northumberland are spectacular and some of the most unspoilt of coastal Britain. On this break we also explore Hadrian's Wall and the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.

Your break includes

- ✓ Return coach travel **from Bridgend & Cardiff**
- ✓ 4 nights at the Jurys Inn, Newcastle Gateshead Quays with dinner & breakfast
- ✓ Guided tour of Hadrian's Wall
- ✓ Excursions to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Alnwick Castle, Hadrian's Wall & Chesters Fort

Optional excursion to Durham (£12pp)

5 Days by Coach only £349

Single Supplement £60

For more information, or to book, please call

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Book today!

Youngsters honoured for making a difference in their community

FOUR young people from the Vale of Glamorgan who are making a difference in their community have been honoured by the Queen's representative for the area.

Able Cadet Joshua Edwards, from Llantwit Major; Able Cadet Lili Mai Black, from Penarth; Cadet Corporal Madisyn Morgan from Barry; and Cadet Sergeant Rhian Horton also from Barry have been appointed as the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets for 2020.

The four were selected for the prestigious role, which lasts for one year, after being put forward for nomination by Cadet group leaders and the Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association for Wales.

The role includes attendance with Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Mrs Morfudd Meredith, at a number of official engagements, including Remembrance events, Royal visits and parades. They were presented with their distinctive badge of appointment in front of around 90 people at an awards ceremony at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff.

Mrs Meredith said: "Tonight presents the opportunity to recognise the excellent work of the Reserve Forces and Cadets in South Glamorgan. The occasion demonstrates the very best dedication and commitment by those who serve in the Reserve Forces and Cadet families."

Joshua, 15, of Barry Sea Cadets, and a pupil at Llantwit Major School, aims to join the Navy. "My favourite thing about Cadets is off shore voyages and I'm really looking forward to taking part in the Tall Ships race this summer," said Joshua, who progressed through the ranks from Cadet to Able Cadet within two years due to his dedication, commitment and outstanding attendance. He is always one of the first to volunteer whenever his unit takes part in events or fundraising activities and helped to organise a 24-hour sailing event that raised over £1,500 towards Barry unit.

Lili Mai, 16, of Penarth Sea Cadets, who attends St Cyres School, and also aims to join the Navy, said she was really looking forward to her role as a Lord-Lieutenant Cadet over the next year.

"Some of the best experiences I have had have been through Cadets so I would definitely recommend it to anyone thinking of joining," said Lili Mai, who holds a multitude of waterborne qualifications, including being a fully qualified rowing coxswain and holding an RYA Level 2 Powerboat License. Her passion is for the catering branch and she has completed a Class 3 Catering course and aspires to achieve the pinnacle qualification of Cadet Catering Instructor.

Madisyn, 15, of Dyfed and Glamorgan ACF, said the best thing about Cadets was meeting new people and all the new experiences that it offered. The St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School pupil is always on hand to support her fellow cadets in training and community activities. This flair for leadership led her to achieve the rank of Corporal at the relatively young age of 14.

Rhian, 17, of No 1 Welsh Wing RAF Air Cadets, attends Barry Sixth Form and is a squadron marksman, basic radio operator, youth first aider and holds the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.

She is also a qualified sport leader, holds a tag rugby leader qualification and runs fun sports sessions for the Cadets at MOD St Athan on a regular basis. At a recent camp, she was the most senior Cadet and responsible for 40 others and ensured they were in the right place, at the right time and in the right uniform. "I was really shocked to find out that I had been chosen but I'm really looking forward to attending all the different events that the Lord-Lieutenant attends," said Rhian.

In recognition of her outstanding service and devotion to duty Mrs Patricia Williams from Rhiwbina, Cardiff, who volunteers with No 1 Welsh Wing RAF Air Cadets, was presented with the Lord-Lieutenant's Certificate of Merit.

There are over 4,400 cadets in Wales who gain skills and qualifications through working with local communities, charities and taking part in a variety of practical activities.

The Cadet syllabus is delivered by hundreds of volunteering adult instructors and civilian assistants, who give up their spare time on weeknights and weekends.



Cadet Corporal Madisyn Morgan, Cadet Sergeant Rhian Horton, Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Mrs Morfudd Meredith, Able Cadet Lili Mai Black and Able Cadet Joshua Edwards.



Mrs Patricia Williams with the Lord-Lieutenant.

Look to the sky this March with Dave Powell

THIS month, the Milky Way can be seen climbing up from the northern horizon, rising not overhead but slightly towards the west before dropping down to the southern horizon.

Between the Milky Way stars and the south-western horizon, Orion and Canis Major with the brilliant star Sirius command attention, and this month will be the last opportunity to explore both constellations.

Almost overhead is Gemini. This constellation is dominated by two stars Castor and Pollux. Quite frankly, without these two bright searchlights, Gemini would not receive the attention it does.

Which is which? As you gaze up, Castor is the top star with Pollux below it but, all is not what it seems. To the naked eye the two stars may look the same brightness and the ancient Greeks assigned Castor as brightest, therefore assigning it the Greek letter Alpha; they then gave the second brightest star in the constellation Pollux the Greek letter Beta.

Now, however, we know that Pollux is brighter than Castor, although we do not change the lettering. Pollux is also a different colour. Binoculars will confirm its colour as being orange while Castor

is white. These two stars are not associated as they lie at different distances from Earth. Castor is furthest, about 50 light years away from us while Pollux is thought to be around 30 light years distant. (A light year is the distance light travels in one year, something like six trillion miles.)

We also know Pollux has at least one extrasolar planet revolving round it, while Castor is the brightest member of a multiple system of stars, perhaps as many as six. It is worth sweeping the whole constellation because should you be fortunate to have a dark sky, there is at least one open cluster of stars, M35. Try sweeping from Castor slowly along the top line of stars to locate.

On March 1, the Moon forms a triangle with the Pleiades and Hyades star clusters, and on the 5th it forms a triangle with Castor and Pollux. The planet Venus is still nicely placed in the early evening sky, easily seen as it is the brightest object in the sky.

If you are an early riser, on the morning of March 18, the Moon and planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn will all appear in the south-east.

Do check our website www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com for when we meet and hold observing sessions. Everyone is welcome, we cater for beginners.

Dave Powell, Barry Astronomical Society.

‘Stop pavement parking,’ says blind man hit by car

A BLIND man from South Wales is calling for an end to pavement parking after he was hit by a car in December.

Steve Lawrence, 62, from Talbot Green, was walking home with his shopping on a residential street when he encountered two cars parked on the pavement. Steve, who uses a long cane to detect obstacles on his route, tried to avoid them. But one of the cars began to drive along the pavement before pulling out into the road, hitting Steve in the arm and damaging his cane beyond repair.

Steve said: ‘I’ve been blind since 2014 and have had bad experiences with vehicles parked on pavements before, but this was the worst. I use my cane to follow the curb when walking along a street, so it is difficult to stay on the pavement when there are cars in the way.

‘I was able to get past that time but then one started up and bumped

me. The driver then swore at me before driving away and obviously I wasn’t able to see what car he was driving or get a licence plate number.’

Steve was in pain following the incident, but it wasn’t until after Christmas that he realised how badly his shoulder was injured. Steve continued: ‘I went to the doctor in the new year and they referred me to physiotherapy, I go once a week and I also do special exercises every day. I am a campaigner and volunteer and have missed many important meetings and appointments because of my injury.

Steve continued: ‘The situation was so frustrating because I couldn’t do anything about it and the driver didn’t even apologise. I am very independent and confident walking alone, but this made me nervous to walk in that area for a while. I worry that other blind and partially sighted people in similar situations would have



their confidence knocked and be less likely to leave the house as a result.’

Pavement parking is currently only illegal in central London, but many MPs, AMs and campaigners are calling for a nationwide ban. In January the National Assembly of Wales’ Petitions Committee began considering an 800-name petition advocating for a ban. Deputy Minister for Economy and

potential solutions. The group aims to report its findings in June.

RNIB Cymru Campaigns Officer Kirsty James said: ‘Clear pavements are essential for blind and partially sighted people, and parking on pavements can cause serious problems. Vehicles parked partly or fully on pavements obstruct walkways and often can’t be detected by people with sight loss until it is too late.

‘Making sure walkways are safe and accessible

is everyone’s responsibility. We will continue to support a ban on pavement parking and are keen to contribute to the Taskforce Group discussion, and we hope to see real change happening across Wales in 2020.’

To find out more about campaigning for RNIB Cymru visit: www.rnib.org.uk/wales-cymru/how-you-can-get-involved.

Dancers to represent Wales at World Cup in Italy

A BARRY dance school has won a place at the Dance World Cup in Italy.

Students from Nicola Peros Ballet Academy, who come from all over the Vale and Cardiff, will represent Team Wales at the tournament this summer. They will be performing in both solo and group dances at the event, for which thousands of children from 62 countries have auditioned. The event is described as ‘the greatest

all-genre dance competition in the world for children and young adults’.

The team is urgently looking for sponsors to help support them with the cost of the Team Wales kit and

of the Team Wales kit and costumes. Nicola’s academy was chosen after auditioning Barry which raised £468. and they will head to Rome at the end of June.

Nicola said: ‘The dancers have worked very hard to get chosen and we have to work equally hard to raise money, as there is no funding for the

dancers.

If any local businesses can support the team, we would be very grateful.

I’m sure they would be honoured to have their names on the Team Wales kit.’

The team recently held a bag-pack at Morrisons in

If your business would like to sponsor Nicola’s Team

Wales, contact Nicola Peros

on 07850 741136, info@

nicolaperosballet.com or visit

fundraising page <https://pay-pal.me/pools/c/8jS0WZekKe>.



Barry and District Ladies Skittles League

DIVISION 1 Lambeth 27; Airways Challengers 251 (D Collard 26) v Bakers Dozen 292 (A Haines 31); Space Finders 299 (K Jackson 33) v 24); Off the Rails 233 Allsorts 317 (L Thomas 33); Family & Friends View Ladies 249 (S 252 (L Sheppard 28) v Special Angels 213 (T Jones 25); Sea View 239 (L Galsworthy 24) Gals 269 (S Phillips 29) v Coppers 271 (N Punter 29); Cadotown Conservative Fillies 245 230 (A Bird 27); Dolly Mixtures 222 (E Abel, (R Phillips & S Chilcott 24) v Pila Pala 265 (B E Bryan & L Marsh 24) 24) v Bandits 151 N Alsop Bickerton 27).

DIVISION 2 Family Affair 262 (A Dyer 30) v Breakaways 240 (L Burnett 26); Et cetera 245 (S Dyke 26) v Persuaders 237 (G Hughes 26); Witchill Weebies 325 (H Aspenell 34) v Rollers 201 (L Gould 31); Red Admiral 266 (S Hayes 34) v Colcot Ladies 243 (C Fenton 25); Bobbys Girls 241 172 (K Evesleigh 20) v 28); Rebels 152 (C (G Toogood 26) v Rugby Triers 224 (D Carter 26) v Witchill Wanderers 176 (J Morrissey 23); Optimists 236 (J Holland 28) v Westenders 258 (M Condon & J Caravan 26) v Hillbillies 248 (J Carpenter 28).

DIVISION 4

Drifters 260 (A McCarthy 31) v Socialites 195 (P Starr 23); Nite Outers 211 (K Blackmore 27) v Aristocats 180 (P Danced 23); Twilights 172 (K Evesleigh 20) v Witches 217 (Y Tovey 28); Rebels 152 (C (G Toogood 26) v Rugby Triers 224 (D Carter 26) v Witchill Wanderers 176 (J Morrissey 23); Optimists 236 (J Holland 28) v Westenders 258 (M Condon & J Caravan 26) v Hillbillies 248 (J Carpenter 28).

What wet weather?

COTTRELL Park Golf Resort is now officially the largest indoor golfing facility in south Wales!

Housing a total of five simulators and an indoor six-hole chipping and putting green, in the aptly named Golf Academy and Sports Hall.

This new indoor facility offers an indoor electronic golfing experience plus the snooker and pool room, with two full size snooker and pool table means all members and visitors can enjoy the freedom of golf and sport throughout the winter, regardless of the weather.

The 36-hole course sees its membership remain strong and ever growing with a variety of membership categories.

General Manager Derek Smith said: "It is not difficult to understand why when we offer two courses for the average price of one subscription. Both our Mackintosh and Gwynn Button Courses are renowned as being dry inland courses, thus seeing few closures. The golf simulators can be used by all – whether in a group session or individual golfers wishing to improve their swing! The GC Hawk simulators also offer other sports including zombie golf and football, making a great day out for the whole family."

Cottrell Park Golf Resort's facilities are available to not only members, but also visitors to the resort. The cosy Merrick's Bar offers a hearty meal and a place to relax after your day of play. With an ideal location on the A48, just five minutes off Junction 33 of the M4, Cottrell Park also offers free parking with more than 200 spaces. It is no surprise that this golf club has recently been named in the top three courses in Cardiff.

AS part of their support of community initiatives in the Vale of Glamorgan, Masons Self Storage have been supporting Barry Town Pan Disability Football Club since 2019.

Most recently, Masons has sponsored the team's wet tops for training as well as providing a donation towards their end of season celebration in July. Barry Town Pan Disability FC use the Masons Self Storage facility to store the training equipment and football kit for their teams. Being able to access their unit 24/7, with no limits on opening times makes a difference to Barry Town Pan Disability FC and their coaches.

Neil and Pat Latham have been running Barry Town Pan Disability FC for over 15 years and in that time it has become one of the most successful pan disability football clubs in south Wales. 'Pan disability' means that their team members have differing impairments and physical abilities, but play together regardless of their limitations. Their team comes from a very diverse background across the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff. In addition, they work with the FAW Trust who provide coaching and first aid qualifications for the coaches.

Barry Town Pan Disability FC are currently organising a Festival of Football on April 5 at St

Cyres school, Penarth which will bring together all the different clubs in south and mid-Wales, with age groups from eight to adult. Barry Town are raising the money to host the event themselves and have been fundraising, as well as taking part in Barry Town Lottery; from every lottery ticket sold, Barry Town Pan Disability FC will receive a percentage of the amount. If you'd like to support the event, you can buy a Barry Town Lottery ticket from the club house at Jenner Park from 4.30pm onwards, as well as at any of the football matches at Jenner Park.

The Festival of Football is open to all to come and watch; not only will there be fantastic under-18 football talent on display, but also a raffle to raise more money for the club.

If you would like to get involved with Barry Town Pan Disability FC, they are currently on the look-out for new players; they are open to all abilities and genders. They are particularly keen to build up their younger teams in the 10-14 years age group, and they're looking for more support for their Festival of Football. If you would like to referee a game or two, have some prizes to donate to the raffle on the day or you just want to send over some fresh fruit for the players, get in touch with Neil Latham on 0782 334818 or email: nwrlatham65@gmail.com.

Latest from Barry Chess Club

THIS week saw two more successful teams in action, the Barry Camelots away to the Caerphilly Knights and the Barry Quarks were at home to the Pontypridd Spartans.

The Camelots didn't play in the previous week so we had dropped to fourth in the table. The Knights were in ninth position and we had already whitewashed them in the previous match as they had in our round two match and our team made only one change, so we hoped for a big win.

On this occasion the whitewash was prevented by Bob

Hurn who managed to get a draw against our Matthew Davies. The half point was all they could get as Steve Cunliffe, Joe Turner, Dave Parsons and Tom Cooke all won their games.

The Camelots move back up to second in the table, but with a bye in round 12 we may drop out of the promotion spots. The Knights look already as they are five points from safety with only six games to go.

In division three the Quarks played the Spartans. We were already in second place just ahead of the Spartans in the promotion race. We were able to introduce new player, Gwyn Havard, to his first league match and put him on the top board. He earned a draw for us. On the following boards Mark Cooke, Ian Abraham and Chris Green

all took victories. We lost the bottom board unfortunately but winning against a strong team by 3.5 - 1.5 is accreditation result.

The Quarks remain in second place and stretched our lead to four points over the Spartans who are the team just outside the promotion spots. This was our fifth consecutive victory and augers well for our promotion challenge.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30pm most Mondays at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY and is open to players of all standards.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but contact a club member through the website first, so that we can arrange for someone to greet you. For more details visit barrychess-club.yolasite.com.



AS part of their support of community initiatives in the Vale of Glamorgan, Masons Self Storage have been supporting Barry Town Pan Disability Football Club since 2019.

Bridge Clubs in the Vale

OLD Hall Bridge and Noelle Bond Club: January 29: first, John Beard and Liam Sheridan 66.67%; second, Sara Bartlett and Teri Pollard 61.51%; third, Ann Miller and Rita Williams 59.13%; fourth, Chris Impey and Colin Lewis 58.33%.

Classes and assisted play at the Pioneer Hall Friday mornings 10am -12.30pm. Thursday afternoons for assisted play from 1.30pm-4pm at the Barry Uniting Church, Heol y Llongau, Barry CF63 4AP. New members are welcomed and a partner may be arranged, if required.

February 5: first, Teri Pollard and Sara Bartlett 71.36%; second, John Beard and Liam Sheridan 59.09%; third, Cathy Mangles and Glenda Roberts 56.82%; fourth, Barbara Exton and Eleanor Jones 55.45%.

February 12: first, John Beard and Liam Sheridan 71.25%; second, John Raymond and Allan Lewis 66.67%; third, Penny Jarvis and Helen Barrie 57.50%; fourth, Sue and Graham Norris 56.67%.

Visitors are always welcome every Wednesday at 6.50pm at the Old Hall, Cowbridge.

Barrivale Bridge Club: Results for February 18: First, Mike Close and Denis Mottram 69.17%; second, Mark Roderick and Kay Dyer 60.32%; and third, Debbie Richards Tony Disley 60.06%.

Sully over 60s indoor bowlers are off to the Welsh championship semi finals

SULLY Bowls Club over 60s travelled to Llanelli to take on Taff Ely from Pontypridd in the quarter final of the Welsh championship.

Taff Ely arrived with a strong and very experienced side, but things started well for Sully and after five ends they were seven shots ahead. After 10 ends Sully were still six shots ahead: the rink of Dave Curtis had picked up 12 shots over these five ends while Mike Doyle's rink had lost 12 over the same period. 28, Taff Ely 67.

After 15 ends Mike Doyle's rink had steadied the ship and picked up four shots while the Dave Curtis rink picked up another five in Llanelli from March to leave Sully 13 shots 9 to 11.

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16 66 BMW 318d SE 4dr, sat nav, 18"m sport alloys, privacy glass, white

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18 68 KIA PICANTO 1.25 X-Line 5dr, Kia warranty Oct 2025, rev cam, 10k, black, full leather

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15 65 CITROEN CACTUS 1.2 PureTech 82 Feel 5dr, DAB, alloys, 30k, blue

£6995 NO BUYERS FEES



15 15 BMW 116 D Sport 5dr, 17"alloys, privacy glass, 45k, met grey

£25995 NO BUYERS FEES



19 19 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI Premium 5dr Automatic 4WD (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty April 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 11k, silver, full leather

£28995 NO BUYERS FEES



16 66 BMW X1 2.0 sDrive D M Sport 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black, full leather

£13495 NO BUYERS FEES



18 65 AUDI A3 1.6 TDI 116 S Line 5dr S Tronic, Audi warranty Jan 2021, sat nav, DAB, Bluetooth, 27k, blue, half leather

£17995 NO BUYERS FEES



15 65 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, through load, 38k, silver, full leather

£10795 NO BUYERS FEES



15 65 FORD FOCUS 1.5 EcoBoost Zetec S 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, white

£6495 NO BUYERS FEES



16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost ST-Line 3dr, aircon, Bluetooth, USB, grey

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16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost ST-Line 3dr, aircon, Bluetooth, USB, grey

£7995 NO BUYERS FEES



16 66 FORD KUGA 1.5 TDCi Zetec 5dr 2WD, sat nav, cruise, 17"alloys, white

£10995 NO BUYERS FEES



16 65 BMW 116d EfficientDynamics Plus 5dr, sat nav, Harman kardon, mineral white, full leather

£9995 NO BUYERS FEES



15 65 AUDI A6 2.0 TDI Ultra Black Edition 4dr S Tronic, sat nav, 20"alloys, bone, grey, full leather

£15995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 66 ABARTH 595 1.4 T-Jet 145 3dr, air-con, dab, sat nav, 27k, yellow	£9995
16 66 AUDI A1 1.6 TDI SE 5dr, dab, privacy glass, red, full leather	£8495
18 18 AUDI A3 1.4 TFSI e-tron 5dr S Tronic, Audi warranty April 2021, sat nav, heated seats, choice, half leather/lecantar	£16995
15 15 AUDI A3 2.0 TDI S-Line 4dr, sat nav, comfort pack, cruise, dab, 44k, white, half-leather	£13795
17 17 AUDI A4 2.0 TDI Ultra Sport 4dr S Tronic, auto, sat nav, 17"alloys, cruise, black	£13795
17 17 AUDI Q2 1.6 TDI Sport 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, 27k, tango red, full Milano leather	£16995
15 15 BMW 116 D Sport 5dr, 17"alloys, privacy glass, 45k, met grey	£9495
16 66 BMW 116d SE 5dr [Nav] Step Automatic, Pro nav, service pack, 19k, platinum silver	£12995
17 66 BMW 118d M Sport (nav) 5dr step auto, 18"alloys, DAB, blue	£14295
16 66 BMW 225 1.5 XE Sport ACTIVE TOURER 5dr Automatic, 4wd sat nav, heated seats, 22k, white, full leather	£16995
16 66 BMW 225xe Luxury 5dr [Nav] Auto, pan roof, sat nav, 35k, grey, full leather	£15995
16 66 BMW 330e M Sport 4dr Step Automatic, M Sport + pack, 19"alloys, sat nav, choice, full leather	£16495
16 66 BMW 320d Efficient Dynamics Sport Estate Step Auto, sat nav, DAB, grey, full leather	£13995
16 66 BMW 320 D M Sport Estate Automatic, heated seats, grey, full leather	£15795
17 67 BMW 320 D M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, harman kardon, heated seats, blue, full leather	£16295
15 65 BMW 335 D XDrive M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, through load, 38k, silver, full leather	£16995
16 66 BMW 330d Luxury Estate Step Auto, sat nav, innovation pack, 19"alloys, black, full oyster leather	£16995
15 65 BMW 420d [190] M Sport 5dr Gran Coupe[Professional Media] M Sport plus pack, 19"alloys, white	£14995
15 65 BMW 420 D XDrive M Sport Coupe Automatic, 19"alloys, sat nav, 16k, blue, full leather	£17495
16 66 BMW 420 D XDrive M Sport Gran Coupe 5dr (190bhp), BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 20k, black, full leather	£16995
17 67 BMW 420d (190) m sport 5dr gran coupe automatic, bmw warranty oct 2020, 19" alloys, pro media, m sport + pack, Harman kardon, choice , full leather	£18995
16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather	£14495
16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport Estate Automatic, pan roof, 190bhp, sat nav, 33k, choice, full leather	£15495
17 67 BMW 520 D XDrive SE 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather	£18495
16 66 BMW 640d M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, xenons, 29k, blue, full beige leather	£22495
15 15 BMW M5 4.4 4dr DCT automatic (559bhp), elec glass sunroof, 19" alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, 26k, white, full leather	£25995
15 65 BMW X1 2.0 D XDrive X-Line 5dr Automatic (190bhp), sat nav, 18"alloys, 32k, bronze, full leather	£16495
16 68 BMW X2 sDrive 20i M Sport 5dr Step Auto, BMW warranty Jan 2022, 19"alloys, sat nav, privacy glass, 5k, black	£23995
15 65 BMW X5 3.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic (7-Seater), 20"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, carbon black, full leather	£25995
18 18 DACIA SANDERO STEPWAY 0.9 TCE Ambiance 5dr, Dacia warranty June 2021, Bluetooth, aircon, 10k, white	£7995
15 65 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, Bluetooth, usb, alloys, 23k, choice	£5795
17 67 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, alloys, usb, dab, choice	£6295
17 67 FIAT 500X 1.6 E-Torq Pop Star 5dr, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 12k, black	£10295

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16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 TD4 SE Tech 5dr 4WD, sat nav, Bluetooth, 32k, choice, full leather £19995

17 17 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 eD4 SE Tech 5dr 2WD, sat nav, privacy glass, 27k, black, full leather £19995

16 16 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER SPORT 3.0 SDV6 (306) HSE 5dr Automatic 4x4, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, heated and cooled seats, black, full leather £29995

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER 3.0 TDV6 Vogue SE 4dr Auto, 20"alloys, panoramic roof, contrast roof, 20k, silver, full leather £42995

17 67 LEXUS IS300h Advance 4dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 17"alloys, cruise, grey, full leather £16995

18 68 MAZDA 3 2.2 D SPORT Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, headup display, reverse camera, black, full leather £14995

16 66 MERCEDES A180 D SE 5dr Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, grey, full leather £11995

18 68 MERCEDES A180 D AMG Line 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, 15k, white, half-leather £19995

18 68 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line Premium 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, usb, 8k, choice, half-leather £22995

19 19 MERCEDES C200 AMG Line 2dr Convertible 9G-Tronic, Mercedes warranty April 2022, sat nav, xenons, 6k, white, half leather/suede £27495

17 17 MERCEDES C220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe Automatic, pan roof, 19"alloys, sat nav, electric heated seats, 28k, white with full leather £22995

17 66 MERCEDES C250d Sport Premium Plus Estate Auto, pan roof, sat nav, 33k, blue, full leather £18995

19 19 MERCEDES C300 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty April 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, 1k, choice with half-leather £28995

17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2020, widescrreen sat nav, ambient lighting, heated seats, xenons, 20k, choice £19795

17 67 MERCEDES E220d AMG Line 2dr Convertible 9G-Tronic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, air scarf, maroon hood, white, half leather/suede £21495

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D SE 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 20k, met grey, full leather £19995

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 13k, half-leather £21795

18 68 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 7k, choice, half-leather £28995

16 66 MERCEDES GLC220d 4Matic Sport Premium 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, met grey, full leather £21495

17 67 MERCEDES GLC 220d 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 15k, choice, full leather £22995

18 18 MERCEDES GLS350 D 4Matic AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic Automatic 7-Seater, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, night pack, Harman kardon, sat nav, pan roof, 13k, white, full leather £43995

16 66 MINI COUNTRYMAN 1.6 Cooper D Park Lane 5dr, cruise, heated seats, 18"alloys, 31k, grey, full leather £11995

16 66 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 S D 5dr, chilli pack, heated seats, 18"alloys, 32k, blue £11995

16 16 MINI CONVERTIBLE 1.5 2dr, JCW chilli pack, heated seats, reverse camera, 12k, white, half-leather £12495

17 67 MINI 1.5 Cooper 2dr Convertible, Chilli Pack, 17"alloys, reverse camera, 27k, Caribbean blue, half leather £11495

17 67 MITSUBISHI ASX 1.6 3 5dr, Mitsubishi warranty Dec 2020, reverse camera, heated seats, 11k, white £11995

19 19 NISSAN MICRA 1.0 IG 71 Acenta Ltd Edition 5dr, Nissan warranty April 2022, Bluetooth, cruise, 8k, met grey £9795

14 14 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI Visia 5dr, air-con, alloys, grey £6295

16 66 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 dCi N-Connecta 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, choice £8995

18 68 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DIG-T N-Connecta 5dr, Nissan warranty October 2021, sat nav, 18"alloys, pan roof, 7k, black, black £15995

17 67 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta 5dr, Nissan warranty Oct 2020, cruise, Bluetooth, aux, usb, 14k, blue £12495

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI 130 N-Connecta 5dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, blue £11495

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 dCi Tekna 5dr, sat nav, rev cam, 24k, black, full leather £12495

16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 dCi N-Vision 5dr, panoramic roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, met green £12795

17 67 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr Xtronic Automatic (7-Seater), Nissan warranty Oct 2020, pan roof, cruise, 9k, blue £14995

18 68 PEUGEOT 3008 1.5 BlueHDI Allure 5dr, Peugeot warranty Dec 2021, apple car play, sat nav, grey £16995

18 68 RENAULT CLIO 0.9 TCE 75 Play 5dr, Renault warranty Dec 2022, cruise, alloys, 8k, white £8795

15 65 RENAULT TWINGO 0.9 TCE Dynamique S 5dr, sat nav, rev camera, white £5495

17 66 RENAULT CAPTUR 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique S 5dr, Renault warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, pdc, privacy glass, 19k, black £9495

17 67 RENAULT KADJAR 1.2 TCE Dynamique Nav 5dr, Renault warranty Nov 2021, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 15k, white £11795

16 66 RENAULT KADJAR 1.5 DCI Dynamique Nav 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 14k, gold £10495

15 65 RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI GT Line Nav 5dr, sat nav, 18"alloys, Bluetooth, 42k, met red, half-leather £7995

17 67 SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI SE Dynamic Technology 5dr DSG Automatic, Seat warranty until December 2020, sat nav, cruise, 8k, grey £11295

17 67 SEAT ALHAMBRA 2.0 TDI CR Xcellence [150] 5dr DSG (7-Seater) Seat warranty Jan 2021, pan roof, sat nav, 16k, grey, full leather £20995

14 64 SUBARU WRX 2.5 STI Type UK 4dr (300bhp) 4WD, sat nav, cruise, aux, usb, 44k, met blue with half-leather £15995

17 17 TOYOTA CH-R 1.8 Hybrid Dynamic S 5dr CVT, sat nav, reverse camera, blue £18795

18 18 TOYOTA PRIUS+ 1.8 VVT-i Icon TSS 5dr CVT Auto (7-Seater) Toyota warranty Aug 2023, reverse camera, Bluetooth, white £20995

17 17 VAUXHALL CASCADA 2.0 CDTI 170 Elite 2dr Convertible, 20"alloys, sat nav, reverse camera, white with red roof and full leather £11995

17 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI Blue Motion Tech GTI 5dr Automatic (220bhp), sat nav, cruise, heated seats, 10k, red £17995

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GT Edition 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, grey £13995

17 67 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI 184 GTD 5dr DSG auto, sat nav, xenons, heated seats, 26k, GREY £18995

16 66 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDI BlueMotion Tech GT 3dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, 18"black alloys, dab, grey, half-leather £1379517 67 VW PASSAT 1.4 TSI GTE Estate DSG Automatic (215bhp), sat nav, heated seats, 18"alloys, black, half-leather £17995

17 67 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDI SE 5dr DSG Automatic, VW warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, cruise, dab, 17k, grey £18995

18 18 VOLVO V40 2.0 T3 152 Momentum Nav Plus 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, 19k, grey £13995

17 67 VOLVO S60 2.0 T4 [190] Business Edition Lux 4dr, Volvo warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 17k, blue £12995

14 64 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design 5dr Geartronic, cruise, Bluetooth, dab, 45k, black, half-leather £14495

16 16 VOLVO XC60 D4 [190] SE Lux Nav 5dr Geartronic, sat nav, cruise, 31k, white, full leather £17995

18 67 PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 BlueHDI 120 GT Line 5dr EAT6 Auto (7-seater) Peugeot warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, re-

PEUGEOT WARRANTY FEBRUARY 2021

18 67 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI [170] ecoFLEX SRi Vx-Nav 5dr S/S, sat nav, 18"alloys, 37k, black

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15 65 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTI [170] ecoFLEX SRi Vx-Nav 5dr S/S, sat nav, 18"alloys, 37k, black

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16 66 MERCEDES C350e Sport Premium Plus 4dr Auto, pan roof, sat nav, choice, full leather

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16 66 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 dCi 5dr [7 Seat] sat nav, sunroof, black

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18 18 RENAULT KADJAR 1.2 TCE Signature Nav 5dr, Renault warranty July 2021, pan roof, 19"alloys, bose, 24k

£12995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 PEUGEOT 308 SW1.6 BlueHDI 120 Allure Estate, Peugeot warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, pan roof, 36k, grey

£9795 NO BUYERS FEES

18 18 MERCEDES GLS350 D 4Matic AMG Line 5dr DSG Auto, Landrover warranty June 2021, pan roof, sat nav,

£37995 NO BUYERS FEES

15 65 RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 dCi 90 Expression + 5dr, cruise, Bluetooth, silver

£6795 NO BUYERS FEES

18 18 RANGE ROVER VELAR 2.0 D240 R-Dynamic S 5dr Auto, Landrover warranty June 2021, pan roof, sat nav,

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18 18 MINI 1.5 Cooper D II 3dr (JCW) Chili pack 17"black alloy, cruise, DAB, 23k, red

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63	BMW X3 X-Drive 2.0D M-Sport Auto In met blue with cream leather, 38,000 miles	£15,995
15	MERCEDES E220 AMG line 2.1D Auto in cavansite blue, 28,000 miles, leather heated seats, sat nav etc	£14,995
65	MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER GX 3H PHEV 2.0 Electric/Hybrid in Diamond White, 33,000 miles, half leather, FSH, AWD, free Road Tax	£14,995
14	BMW i3 E-Drive 60AH Automatic In met-grey, 21,000 miles, 1 owner, sat-nav etc	£13,495
14	MERCEDES SLK 250 CDI Sport Auto White with black leather, 31,000 miles	£12,995
04	JAGUAR XK8 4.2 V8 Auto Coupe in met red with cream leather, 53,000 miles	£12,995
16	RENAULT KADJAR 1.6 Dci Signature Nav 4x4 In met red, 33,000 miles, high spec	£12,695
64	VW GOLF 2.0 TDI Blue Motion Auto GT 5dr Met black, 25,000 miles	£11,795
15	KIA OPTIMA 3 ECO-DYNA 1.7 CRDi 5dr in silver, 26,000 miles, pan sunroof, huge spec	£10,995
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62	BMW X1 2.0D X-LINE met-white with tan leather 43,000 mile 4x4 at	Reduced by £500 to £9,995
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14	KIA CARENS 2 1.7 CRDi Automatic 7 seater In blue, 43,000 miles, bluetooth, PS	£8,695
65	HONDA CIVIC 1.6i-D Tec SR 5dr In twilight blue, 75,000 miles, sat nav, leather etc	£8,495
63	MERCEDES B200 1.8D Sport In black, 54,000 miles, pan roof, sat nav	£8,495
65	AUDI A1 SE 1.6TDI 5 dr In grey 71,000 miles, very nice example	£8,495
66	SKODA OCTAVIA 14 TSi SE In met-grey 31,000 miles, petrol, 5dr	£8,995
16	RENAULT CLIO 1.5 Dci iconic nav 5dr met black with black leather, 22,000 miles	£8,295

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61	FIAT 500 TWIN AIR PLUS In black 71,000 miles Free Road Tax	£3,695
13	FIAT PANDA 1.2 Lounge In blue, 53,000 miles, low insurance	£3,695
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Endurance test returns

SUNDAY, March 1 sees the return of an extraordinary test of endurance: the Barry Track 40 Miles and Barry Marathon Track Race at the Jenner Park Stadium.

Racing over such arduous distances pre-dates the modern Olympic Games and was very popular in the mid and late 19th century. In Wales too, many such races were held in Maindy Stadium, Cardiff, and the first sub four hour 40 miles was achieved there in 1967.

The local equivalent at Barry was first held on the cinder track in 1986 and was won by local athlete Mick McGeoch, who remains the race director today. After converting the track to a synthetic surface the following year, the Barry 40 has earned its place as a cult event on the global ultra calendar.

In the previous 33 editions no less than 62 world best performances have been set, and three Barry winners have gone on to win

MM

Barry and District Clubs League round up

THE latest results from the Barry and District Clubs League are as follows:

Crib Division 1: Rhoose Social 11, Cadoxton Cons 4; West End 5, Wyndham Cons 10; Moors Boys 9, Liberals 6. League: Rhoose Social 136; Romilly Railway 136; Liberals 131; West End 130; Wyndham Cons 123; Cadoxton Cons 122; Moors Boys 122.

Skittles Division 1: Barries Boys 6.5, Sea View Exiles 0.5; Barry Town FC 6, Rhoosters 1; Liberals 2.5, Allsorts 4.5; Rhoose Social C 6, Rhoose Social B 1; Rugby Club 3, Liberals A 4; West End D 7, Slammers 0; Rhoose Social A 5, West End C 2; King William XII 5.5, Cambrian Flyers 1.5.

League: West End D 100.5; Rhoose Social C 95.0; Rugby Club 83.5; Sea View Exiles 83.0; Barry Town FC 77.0; Allsorts 73.5; King William XII 73.0; Rhoose Social A 72.5; West End C 68.0; Barries Boys 67.0; Liberals C 62.5; Slammers 61.5; Rhoosters 51.5;

global titles: Carolyn Hunter-Rowe (1993), Simon Pride (1999) and Lizzy Hawker (2006).

The

Barry Marathon was created in 2017 as an opportunity for those who would find themselves unable to complete 40 miles in the allotted time, and has proved a popular undercard. The event has been particularly well supported this year, with 19 athletes entering the 40 miles and four the marathon.

Defending champion James Elgar returns to defend the title he won in gale force conditions 12 months ago. A Rogerstone resident, James hopes to go faster this year, no doubt confident after reducing his Ironman Triathlon best time to eight hours 56 minutes last year.

If the men's race looks an open affair, so too does the ladies'. Cardiff resident Rachel Bowen won the Welsh title 12 months ago, and faces a potentially thrilling challenge.

The race will start at 10am and admission is free.

MM

By Philip Irwin

Reporter

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BE careful what you wish for.

How many times have Welsh rugby fans said that what the Six Nations needs is a strong French team?

It's a little late now to say that what we meant was a strong French side against England and Ireland, with Les Bleus going back to being a shambles when they played Wales.

There are some great talents in this French side – particularly at half back and at captain. They did collect two yellow cards by displaying that traditional French flakiness, but scrum half Antoine Dupont and outside half Romain Ntamack were cool, calm and clear-headed.

From the Welsh point of view, fans will get worked up over the close calls that went against them. On balance, France probably had the luck of the bounces too, but there were close calls that went in Wales' favour.

However, in a game that had its fair share of 'turning points' the crucial 14-pointer, when Ntamack intercepted Nick Tompkins' pass, was done to nobody other than Wales.

It all started well for Wales when, after three minutes, they were awarded a penalty 40 metres out and Dan Biggar split the posts.

However, only three minutes later France definitely enjoyed the rub of the green when Ntamack launched the first of many high kicks, and this one was split by Leigh Halfpenny. He doesn't drop many but, to make matters worse, it landed in the perfect spot for the French full back, Bouthier, to take it at speed.

In a flash he was gone and crossed in the corner but was able to run round behind the posts. The conversion made it 7-3 to France.

Things were nearly a lot worse two minutes later. Wales launched a promising attack but France turned it over close to their own 22. Dupont spotted Alun Wyn Jones on the wing (an attacking play but not a great defensive one) and kicked low and long.

AWJ versus right wing Terry Thomas was no contest but, luckily for Wales, when Thomas reached the ball, he tried to pick up when a kick ahead was probably the better option, and the ball spun into touch.

This was to be an incident-packed game, and the next came just two minutes later, when George North and Gael Fickou contested a high ball, and the Welsh wing took a blow to the head. It was totally accidental but a Head Impact Assessment was necessary, so Jonny McNicholl replaced North, who did not get clearance to come back on.

Tactically, Wales were using their backs more than France, and the French line were coming up really quickly. It was no surprise, but Shaun Edwards' coaching was definitely giving Wales problems.

On 15 minutes, after an exchange of kicks, Dan Biggar leapt high to take his own kick and, two phases later, he picked out Josh Adams on the left wing with a pin-point kick. Adams caught it and was so nearly in the clear, but he sensed that he was about to step into touch and his pass inside did not go to Welsh hand.

Soon after, France were awarded a penalty and Ntamack took play from his own 22 to the Welsh 22. At the line out, Wales were penalised and the outside half kicked the penalty to make it 10-3.

Wales were still producing threatening attacks through the backs, but France were responding with some



Picture by Longleur 00

fierce counter-rucking, and they were getting turnovers as a result.

However, on 25 minutes Wales reduced the deficit when, after winning a line out in the French 22, they set up a series of drives and Biggar kicked the resultant penalty.

France responded with a brilliant try. Bouthier broke and passed to Fakatava and when they ball came back to Ntamack, he spotted two men on the far touchline and his perfect kick was taken by Fickou, who went over.

However, referee Matthew Carley asked the TMO to check for a forward pass from Bouthier, and Wales breathed a collective sigh of relief when the verdict went in their favour.

Things went wrong for Wales two minutes later, though. The French defence read a Welsh backs' move and Halfpenny was tackled. France kicked ahead and Hadleigh Parkes had no choice but to take the ball into touch just short of the Welsh line.

From the line out, France looked as if they would go for a drive, but instead they fed the ball on the blind side to the lock, Willemse, who was tackled but stretched out to ground the ball. Ntamack kicked the touchline conversion and it was 17-6 to France.

Wales came straight back and, despite the fact that Halfpenny was out of the play receiving treatment, Biggar chipped ahead. Nick Tompkins gathered and fed Gareth Davies, who was almost over.

However, Wales had to settle for a penalty and it was now 17-9.

The final five minutes of the half was destined to be another turning point, as Wales launched a series of attacks. Eventually, No 8 Gregory Aldritt pushed his luck and received a yellow card.

That last five minutes became 10. The clock kept ticking as Wales called for a series of scrums against the seven-man French pack (with Fickou doing his best as an emergency No 8).

The crowd were baying for the go wide as the French were a man short in the backs but, when Wales finally did so, it was an untidy move that founded.

With the clock showing 45 minutes, Tompkins was unable to take a difficult pass and knocked on. France celebrated as if they had won and the TV director knew exactly who to put the camera on, but it was poker face time for Shaun Edwards, who wasn't going to celebrate prematurely.

Presumably, he headed to the dressing room to tell his players to concentrate in the second half.

It was stating the obvious to say that Wales knew they were in a real game,

but there was one chink of light. It has been suggested that the French are not yet fit enough to play Edwards' high intensity defence for the full 80 minutes. Make that 85, as the first half had gone on so long.

Could they sustain it? The second half started with Aldritt still having four minutes left to sit in the bin, so France gave a mini masterclass in keeping possession until he came back. Wales did get the ball just before he returned, but France had passed their first test.

On 47 minutes, Wales scored after a series of forward drives. Hadleigh Parkes came on the crash ball but a French hand knocked it out of his grasp – straight to Dillon Lewis and the prop made it over the line close to the posts, giving Biggar an easy conversion. Just one point in it now at 17-16.

All the momentum was with Wales now and a score looked very likely as they broke left. Tompkins had two men outside him but Ntamack gambled on the interception and was away. He had 70 metres to go but there was no Welsh flyer close enough to catch him. Hadleigh Parkes tried but the French outside half made it to the line and his conversion made it 24-16.

A real 14-point moment.

The next 10 minutes were a little untidy, but on the hour mark, Wales were penalised and Ntamack – already a dead cert for man of the match – kicked the 40-metre penalty to stretch the margin to 11.

It was a game full of turning points and the next came three minutes later. Tomos Williams had replaced Gareth Davies at scrum half and he and Tompkins combined in a threatening attack. Ntamack was forced to tidy up a kick ahead close to his line, and Wales set a series of drives from the line out.

Ken Owens went left with Josh Adams in the clear outside but the French lock, Willemse, knocked the ball forward as he tackled the Welsh hooker.

Referee Carley had a full range of options, from ruling it accidental, to giving a penalty, or giving a penalty try (and a card) but after a lengthy consultation with the TMO, it was called accidental.

Suddenly, as is traditional, the Welsh crowd noted that Mr Carley was English!

By now, substitutes were arriving left, right and centre. For Wales, Wainwright replaced Moriarty at blindside flanker, and the giant Will Rowlands replaced Jake Ball in the second row.

Wales were on top in the scrum

now, and Rowlands' sheer bulk may have been a factor, and they received a series of scrum penalties, with the crowd howling for another yellow card.

That card came when the French No 3, Haouas, was singled out for collapsing a scrum, but all that did was to trigger another turning point. France were forced to take off their blindside flanker, Cros, and on came Demba Bamba at prop.

Exactly what happened at the next scrum will be a subject of debate for some time. Welsh coach Wayne Pivac claimed that France had not pushed straight, while the TV panel thought Wales were guilty of the same offence. However that debate pans out, the French seven just came straight through the Welsh eight, causing chaos, and were rewarded with a penalty.

By now, Wales had replaced Josh Adams, who had picked up an ankle injury, with Jarrod Evans, with Tompkins moving to the wing.

With six minutes left, substitute hooker Ryan Elias, Rowlands and Jarrod Evans all made ground, taking Wales close to the French line and eventually, Dan Biggar forced his way over.

It was time for another TMO referral. He had certainly lost control of the ball before regathering, but the verdict was that the ball had not gone forward. Ntamack had been trying to prevent the grounding and he received an unnecessary knee in the ribs, meaning that he was off the field when the man of the match announcement was made.

Biggar's conversion made it 27-23 to France, and there were still three minutes left before France would be back to 15.

An exciting finish loomed but France had a chance to spoil it when they were awarded a penalty 40 metres out. Ntamack had not put foot wrong all day but it was a big ask for Jalibert, who had only just come on. He struck it well, and the crowd went silent, until it just slipped the wrong side of the post – from the French point of view, of course.

There was still time for one last bit of excitement, as Wales fashioned one last attack. Tompkins broke with Tomos Williams in support and he had a split-second choice to make. A pass to Williams would not have put the scrum half in the clear, but who knows what might have happened?

As it was, he took the tackle but, when the French replacement hooker, Chat, got his hands on the ball, referee Carley penalised the Welsh centrer holding on.

France kicked the penalty to touch and a pulsating game was concluded.

It was a result that will hurt Wales now, and for the next few weeks, but it was the best game of the Six Nations so far, and there is considerable satisfaction to take from this.

One final point. When Wales played Ireland, I was not impressed by Jonny Sexton taking on the dual role of Irish captain and referee. He was constantly in the ref's face, arguing this and that, and I felt it was not a good look.

So, I can't turn a blind eye to Nick Tompkins berating the referee, Roy Keane-style, after that last-minute penalty award.

Emotions were running high, but it was still not a good thing to see – especially as all the experts agreed that it was a penalty. The upshot was that the game finished with both teams facing off against each other.

As a certain Nigel Owens said a few years back: "Gentlemen, this is not football."

